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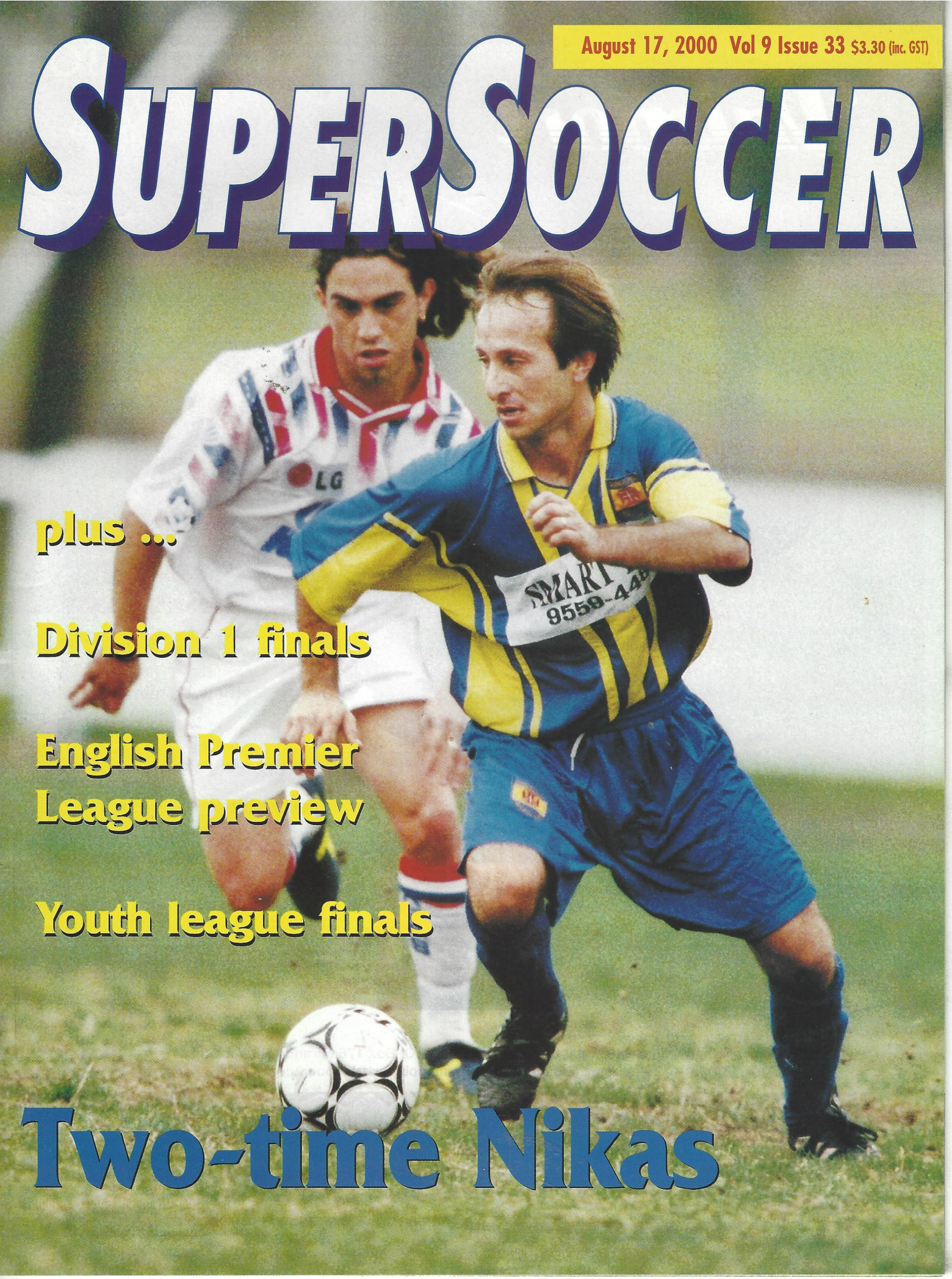
SuperSoccer



plus ...

Division 1 finals

English Premier League preview

Youth league finals

Two-time Nikas

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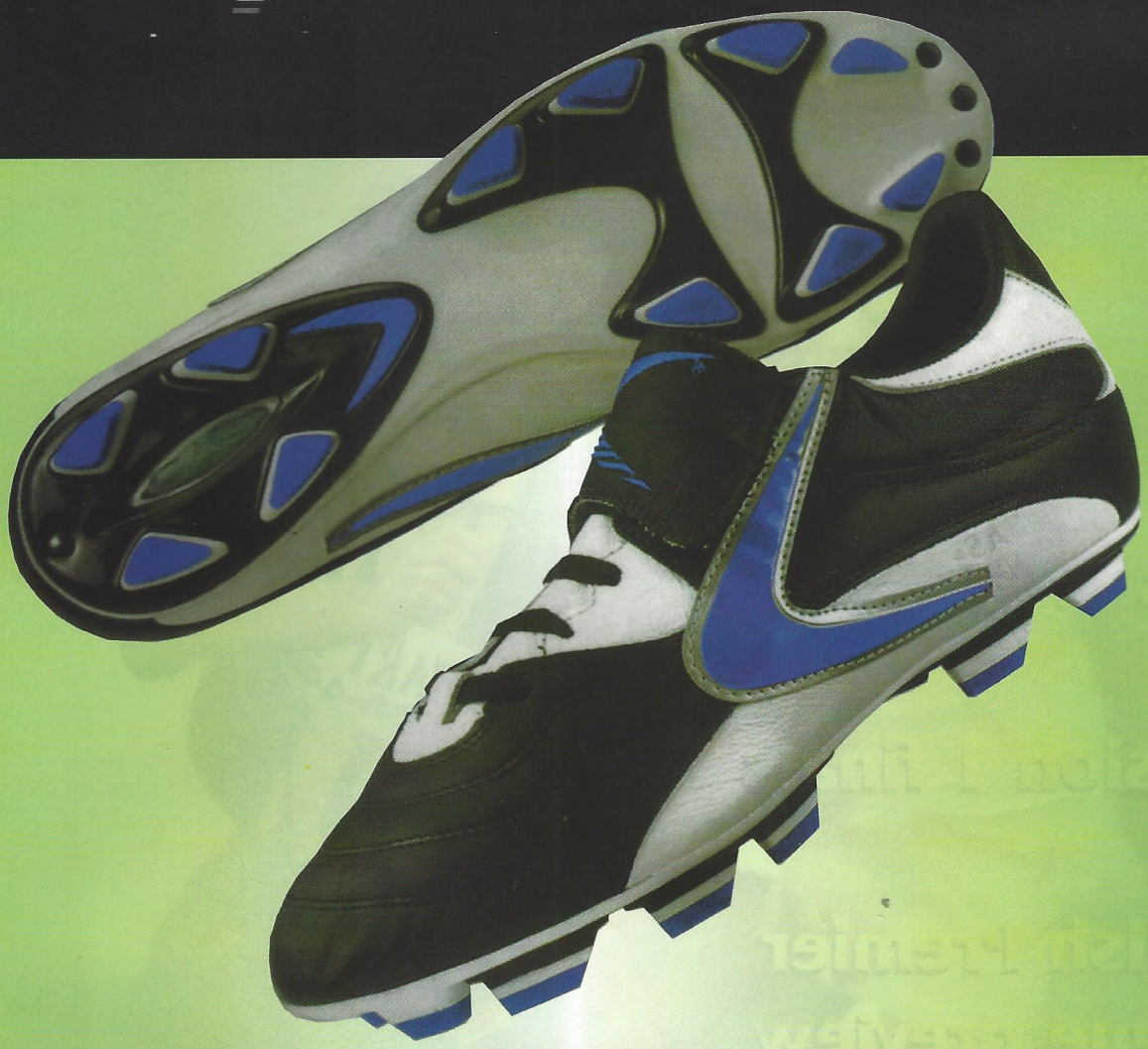

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Contents

Division One Finals

4 We look at both of the Division One finals held last weekend.

6 Division One Preview

9 Women's Awards

10 Gold Medal Presentation

19 NSW Players Abroad

21 English Premier League preview

Regular Features

18 Match Facts

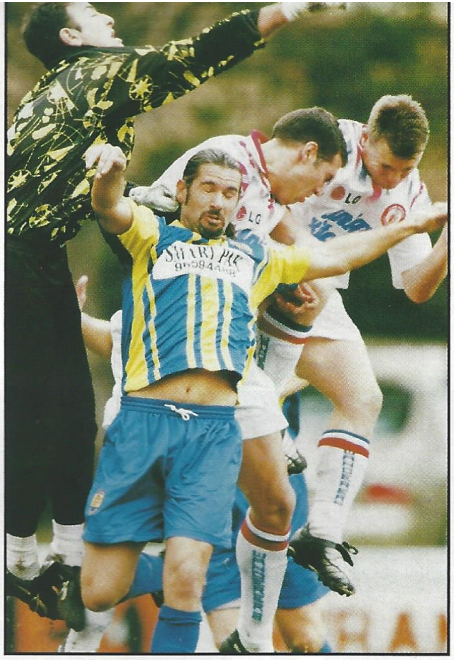
26 Division Two 2000

28 Super Cadet League matches

29 Super Youth League matches

Front cover: Dulwich Hill lost to Hajduk Wanderers in the afternoon after the night before.

NO PARTY FOR DULWICH HILL



Peter Smith was at Seymour Shaw Park on Sunday to look at the major semi-final between Dulwich Hill and Hajduk Wanderers.

Dulwich Hill, 0 - Hajduk Wanderers 2
Pondeljak 55, 85)

Dulwich Hill: Trajcevski; Stubbs, Papoythis, Pavlakis (Sultan 61) Kalogeras; Pontidas, Hristodoulou, Bideau, Pullicino (Nasser 74); Todorovski, Briscoe (Dounis 71) SUBS NOT USED: Egault, Momircevski

Shots: 12
Corners: 2
Fouls Committed: 8
Cautions: Todorovski

Hajduk Wanderers: Tolios; Abi Arrage, Senat, Camilleri, Scotti; Pondeljak, Ellul, Costello, Vella (Giometti 70); Worrall (Gledhill 65), Anderson SUBS NOT USED: Cross, Bailey, Mizzi

Shots: 15
Corners: 5
Fouls Committed: 12
Cautions: Costello

Referee: Jim Nicolaou

Super Soccer Rating: 4

Hajduk Wanderers swept into their third consecutive Grand Final with a 2-0 victory over Minor Premiers, and great rivals Dulwich Hill last Sunday.

Hajduk's tenacity and determination getting them over the line in this exciting Major Semi Final that in truth could have gone either way. Despite the vigour of some of the challenges, it was a clean game that was helped by referee John Nicolaou who allowed the game to flow as best he could.

Hajduk showed their intention from the outset when they forced Dulwich Hill to clear off the line in the opening minute and they maintained this pressure by dominating field territory for much of the first half.

However, it was Dulwich Hill who had the best chances of an action packed opening stanza. On 13 minutes Eddie Briscoe shot just inches wide after being released by journeyman midfielder Eric Hristodoulou. Eight minutes later it was Hristodoulou's chance to strike at goal but in an awkward chance, he could only guide the ball over the crossbar after sliding in at the near post. Tom Pontidas and Peter Pullicino checkmating the Hajduk defence to create the opportunity. On the half hour mark, Pontidas again was the provider but Briscoe spurned the opportunity when he fired into the side netting. Steve Tolios in the Hajduk goal nearly gifted Dulwich Hill a goal when he uncharacteristically failed to hold a shot but Rob Todorovski hesitated for just a moment too long and Tolios had time to smother the follow up shot and atone for his error.

All the while Hajduk were having more possession in their opponents third but were just unable to find the combination that would allow them to unlock their opponents defence. Dulwich Hill on the other hand relying mostly on counter attack for their forays deep into Hajduk territory. It was ironic then that the closest the game had to a first half goal was an impressive Hajduk counter attack right on the stroke of half time. Jason Vella and Tom Pondeljak broke downfield before releasing the impressive JJ Ellul whose low shot on goal was deflected onto the near post of the newly crowned Division One Player of the Year - Dulwich Hill's Peter Trajcevski.

Ten minutes after the interval Hajduk Wanderers scored the game's all-important first goal. Ellul and Pondeljak again combining before the latter's classy shot from 22 yards found a narrow gap between keeper and post.

Lanky striker Jay Anderson who worked hard all day, was nearly rewarded for his endeavours on 75 minutes when he was able to deflect a bouncing ball with an outstretched boot past Trajcevski, but a covering defender was lurking and he was able to tidy up, keeping Dulwich Hill in the game. Nine minutes later Anderson finally had the ball in the back of the net but the goal was disallowed in controversial circumstances. Anderson had been ambling back to an onside position in the centre of the pitch when his team mates broke down the left flank. After returning to an onside position past the last defender, Anderson found a cross field ball at his feet. He then dribbled past one defender before slamming the ball high into the net amid howls of protest from the Dulwich Hill players. After initially returning to the half way line, the referee consulted his linesman for a lengthy period before eventually disallowing the goal.

If Hajduk felt aggrieved by the decision they didn't let it affect their concentration. Just sixty seconds later, substitute Rick Giometti's pass allowed Pondeljak the chance to score his second. Something the on-loan Sydney United midfielder did with ease as he pushed the ball past an exposed Trajcevski from 15 yards.

Dulwich Hill had a chance to pull one back on the stroke of full time as a deep corner found George Kalogeras but, caught by surprise after the ball had beaten everybody, he was only able to push his effort onto the crossbar.

Hajduk's 2-0 win meaning they will face either the team that denied them the Premiership in 2000, Dulwich Hill, or the team that denied them the 1999 Division 2 Premiership, Fraser Park, in Sunday week's Grand Final.

Dulwich Hill for their part, will take some solace from the fact that had they been able to take just one of their first half opportunities the result of this game could have been so different.

WONDER GOLDEN GOAL

Greg Stock was at Jensen Park in the rain last Sunday.

Fraser Park 1 (John Palapanis 108') - Rockdale City Suns 0 (extra time).

Fraser Park : 1. Rodic, 2.Tony Canning, 4.Vadim Mikoutski, 5.Anthony Trieste, 6.Ronald Rothenbuhler, 7.Phil Moss, 8.David James, 9.Damien Rosenthal, 10.Kia Lammert (16.John Palapanis), 11.Neil Cogger, 14.Pat Darvill (3.Alban Reinhard); SUBS NOT USED : 17.Gerry Gomez, 18.Keegan Pillay, 20.Darren Ivicevich.

Shots : 15
Free Kicks : 11
Corners : 5
Cautions : Trieste

Rockdale City Suns : 1.Mark Afif, 2.Vlado Kiparov (12.Anthony Adamo), 3.Ali Karnib (10.John Manolopoulos), 4.Kire Josevski, 5.Blagoja Kuleski, 6.Andrew McHardy, 9.Spase Najdoski, 11.Goce Trpkoski, 13.Marko Vuckovic (7.Peter Apolevski), 16.Sam LaMacchia, 17.Steve Bozinovski; SUBS NOT USED : 8.Mile Todoroski, 20.David Moss.

Shots : 8
Free Kicks : 18
Corners : 5
Cautions : LaMacchia

Referee : Mark Hester

Assistant Referees : Nick Conditsis and Brian Seymour

Super Soccer Rating : 3 stars

Six weeks ago John Palapanis was a dejected soul. After limping from the field at Fraser Park with damaged ligaments in his toe, Palapanis thought his 2000 season was over and that he would be watching the finals series from the outer. In what can only be described as a Lazarus-like return not only did Palapanis come on as a substitute in last Sunday's Minor Semi-Final against Rockdale, but in spectacular fashion was the architect of Fraser Park's dramatic extra time winner.

"It was just one of those shots," explained an excited Palapanis after the match. "DJ (David James) did the work in getting the ball onto me and with one of the Rockdale players hard into me I just turned and wacked my shot away."

The shot Palapanis describes was the brighest moment of a game that meandered through its entirety. With both sides noted for playing attractive and attacking possession football it was somewhat of an anti-climax that a game which promised so much delivered little in the way of entertainment. While Fraser Park probably deserved their win for the way in which they held their possession for long periods of time, the ebb and flow of Rockdale's attack did little for the large crowd.

From as early as the ninth minute the Fraser Park midfield started to stamp their influence on the game when skipper Tony Canning sent in a teasing cross from the right only to see the head of Damien Rosenthal rise high over Rockdale's veteran sweeper Blagoja Kuleski and nod the ball harmlessly over the cross bar. With David James and Phil Moss providing the wide players Neil Cogger and Tony Canning with some quality ball the Fraser machine started to slip into gear but it was the uncompromising defence of Rockdale that kept the Jets forwards well held.

In the second half it was the turn of Rockdale to try and grab the advantage. With Andrew McHardy the standout player in the second stanza, Rockdale put his pace and skill to good use as firstly he and then Steve Bozinovski started to run at the Fraser Park defence. With Golden Boot winner, Spase Najdoski, well marked by Anthony Trieste it was up to former Bankstown City striker Goce Trpkoski to try and work miracles. With little on offer the closest Rockdale came to scoring was via an Andrew McHardy free header in the 68th minute but his ill-directed effort off a Steve Bozinovski cross didn't even trouble Jets goalkeeper Angelo Rodic.

As time trickled away in the second half Fraser Park coach Gerry Gomez made the biggest gamble of the 2000 season in introducing the underdone John Palapanis for the tiring Kia Lammert for the final ten minutes and in the 84th minute it almost paid immediate dividends. A Fraser Park corner saw Palapanis rise high at the back post only to see his effort parried away by Rockdale goalkeeper Mark Afif and the return strike from David James sail well over the cross bar. Even an impressive deadball effort from Phil Moss a minute later was denied by the canny reflexes of Afif who saw the ball safely around the post.

With the game sent to golden goal extra time it seemed just a matter of time that penalty kicks would ultimately decide the issue as both sets of defences worked hard in alleviating any difficult situations. For Rockdale their back four of McHardy, Kuleski, Karnib and Josevski were superb. The same can be said for their Fraser Park counterparts who under the watchful control of ex Latvian international Vadim Mikoutski at sweeper were able to repel the best Rockdale could throw at them.

But with just two minutes of the second half of extra time on the clock, Palapanis turned blindly and let fly with a right footed rocket to the far corner of the right hand upright. With Mark Afif protecting the near post his virtuoso effort was enough to beat the diving goalkeeper and sail uninterrupted in the corner of the net.

It was a shot of a lifetime but one that was not lost on Fraser Park coach Gerry Gomez.

"It was brilliant, and considering Pala hasn't played for six weeks it is even the more remarkable.

"The most remarkable thing" continued Gomez, "is that Palapanis shouldn't have been even playing today. Its just been his desire to return that he has trained hard in an effort to overcome his injury and fight for a spot in the squad."

While Gomez was swift in his praise for Palapanis he also had a word for losing coach Mile Todoroski.

"All credit to Rockdale. They came at us today and made us work extremely hard to get the result. It wasn't easy for the boys at any stage but we've come through it and we've got a tough match next week in the Preliminary Final to aim for."

With Ben Burrows due back from suspension it's expected to a full strength Fraser Park side to meet Dulwich Hill in what shapes as being a huge clash on Sunday at Lambert Park.

Division One

Paul Goodwin previews the Division One Preliminary Final at Lambert Park on Sunday.

Dulwich Hill, perhaps still coming down after a big night out at the NSWSF Gold Medal Presdentation the night before, were on the wrong end of a 2-0 loss to old foes Hajduk Wanderers last weekend.

Who better for them to play, then, to rekindle the fire and bring two passionate groups of local supporters together at Lambert Park than neighbours Fraser Park?

Dulwich won the league and deservedly so.They had a few scares near the end of the season, but hung on to win by a precious point. In losing to Hajduk Wanderers they surrendered an unbeaten record against the side from St Johns Park, but the result mirrors that of a past campaign in Second Division when the finals' series outcomes belied the form in the season proper.

While Hajduk march into their third Grand Final in as many seasons Dulwich must now fight another day.

The last time these sides met, Fraser Park thrashed Dulwich Hill at their Marrickville headquarters after the visitors had led clearly early on. This time, on the neutral turf of Sunday's Lambert Park, it may be quite different.

We have seen what Dulwich can do in a long campaign and last weekend's loss to Hajduk cannot disguise their overall strength. They beat Fraser the first time the sides met and looked set to double the victories against their rivals when racing to a 2-0 lead at the Marrickville ground.

What they had not reckoned with was a rare off day for Division 1 Player of the Year, Peter Trajcevski, whose game went from bad to worse as he was caught out twice in trying to clear with his feet and generally was off colour. If he is back to his more consistent best on Sunday at Lambert Park he could be the man to keep Fraser scoreless.

Despite their reputation for scoring freely, Fraser failed to find the net until a piece of individualism supplied a winner deep into extra time last Saturday.

Gerry Gomez will almost certainly rush tough-as-teak striker Ben Burrows back into his starting line up to give added punch up front and will consider which of his walking wounded should start the game. Burrows, a former goalkeeper who has blossomed under Gomez, is respected by his coach especially for his aerial ability.

Neil Cogger, whose experience playing in the Doc Martens' League with Cambridge City shows in his ability to take on and beat opponents, will also be a key player for his side. If he can tame his markers and maybe even get in some close range strikes as well as using his renowned ball crossing ability Dulwich may be in some strife.

John Palapanis almost didn't make it to the bench last time out before coming into the fray late and scoring the winner with a piece of instinctive finishing inside the box. Palapanis is a very skilful player, but has been carrying a knock for a while now and may be deployed again as an impact player.

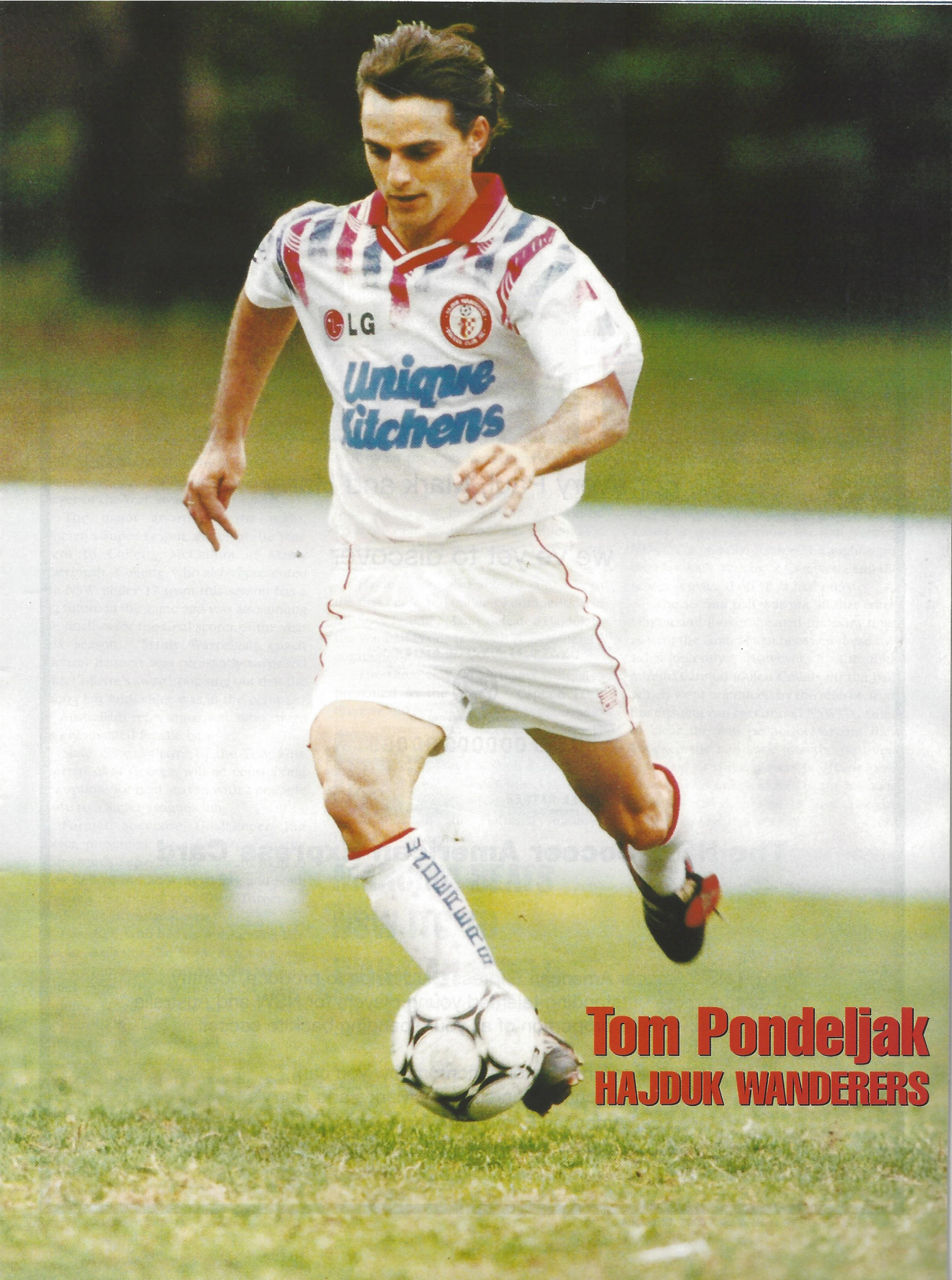
Fraser are so well led by Latvian international libero Vadim Mikoutsky that they now move in a fluid way throughout a game. They will give Dulwich a good work out, but the 'Hill coach Bill Pilovski knows his players' ability and special strengths which may be enough for him to outsmart his counterpart Gerry Gomez, another who was seen to advantage at the Gold Medal function.

Another Fraser player to shine on Saturday was left sided probing defender Albert Reinhard after coming off the bench, but unless fully fit he probably won't start this time either.

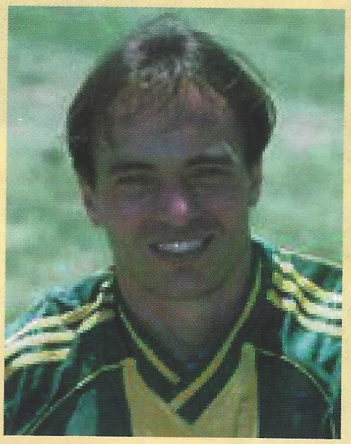
The game should attract a huge crowd who are going to be treated to an enthralling tussle and a battle of wits between the two coaches as much as the players. The odds favour Dulwich slightly, but it is a game which has no really obvious winner and that is a sure-fire recipe for the success of the game as a spectacle.

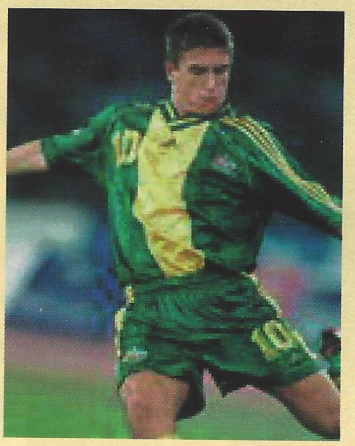
TIP: Dulwich Hill

The Under 21 match features Ryde City and Dulwich Hill, while the Under 18s brings together Stanmore Hawks and Rockdale City Suns.



Tom Pondeljak
HAJDUK WANDERERS





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Women's Awards

by Marc Barnett

A crowd of approximately 300 people turned out at Club Marconi's Auditorium last Friday night (11 August) to attend the Women's NSW Soccer Federation Dinner and Presentation night.

The dinner, which is the culmination of the Women's Super League and State League competitions, was very enjoyable and a good time was had by all. Special guests for the evening included Warren Fisher, Chief Executive Officer Women's Soccer Australia and Jeff Saul, Deputy Chair NSW Women's Soccer Council. Brendan Renaud and Vlado Zoric of Marconi's NSL team were also on hand to present the Player of the Year awards.

The major award for the night, Women's Super League Player of the Year, went to Collette McCallum of Manly Warringah. Collette, who also represented the NSW under 17 team this season has a big future in the game and was also among the finalists for the Goal scorer of the year this season. Manly Warringah coach Michael Bennett was pleasantly surprised with Collette's award, pointing out that the young left midfielder was in the company of Australian representatives who were also nominated for the honour.

State League Player of the Year, Kate Sherratt of St George, will be considering her options for next season with a possible move to a Super League club.

Former Socceroo Goalkeeper, Jim Fraser, presented the Goalkeeper of the Year awards. Super League's award went to Cass Kell of the NSW Academy and State League's recipient was Tory Turner of Gladesville Hornsby Koalas.

Cass Kell, who had an outstanding season in goals for the NSW Academy will now be hoping to crack into the Matildas squad after the upcoming Women's National League season with the NSW Sapphires. Kell was the backbone of the NSW Academy all season and will be wanting to continue that form over the coming summer. Tory Turner is also an ex ACT state representative.

The leading Goal scorer for the season and recipient of the Debbie Tait Memorial Trophy was Marconi captain Alicia Cavanagh with 17 goals. Alicia was happy as the captain to be able to contribute so many goals to her side this season. Amanda Parker of Hajduk was the State League Goal scorer of the year, both Amanda and Alicia represented NSW in the National League last season.

The five Matildas from NSW were also honoured for gaining selection in the Olympic Games team. Kelly Golebiowski, Heather Garriock, Julie Murray, Bridgette Starr and Anissa Tann-Darby were unable to attend the Presentation dinner as the Matildas are currently on a tour of North Korea and China.

Super League Premiers for both First grade and under 21's were Marconi. Marconi coach Geoff Stanmore was happy with what the club has achieved this season.

"We are the first club since 1995 to win both the Minor Premiership and Grand Final in first grade and the under 21's, along with the Waratah shield all in one season".

Hajduk were also able to clinch both the first grade and under 19 competition in the State League. Manly defeated Hajduk in the Waratah Pennant which is an under 19 competition.

The three NSW State teams were also presented to the crowd. Captain Leah Blayney and her NSW under 14s team, who were crowned the undefeated National Champions. The NSW under 17s team was captained by Kathryn Collins to 4th place at the National titles, while the NSW Sapphires were crowned National Champions in the National Summer League last season.

MARCONI BEATS NSW ITC TO WARATAH SHIELD

Marc Barnett watched the Final.

The trademark of a champion side is the ability to play poorly and win.

Marconi proved this fact against the NSWITC. Marconi were out played and out enthused in the majority of areas on the park, but still came away with the Waratah Shield. A last minute controversial goal handed Marconi the Sshield and crushed the hopes of the young NSWITC girls who were playing their last game together.

NSWITC had a number of shots on target with Michelle Carney making her trademark dangerous runs. In the 8th minute Justine McLaughlin had a terrific chance in front of the Marconi goal but the strike went directly to Caverretta. The majority of the NSWITC enthusiasm was generated by the outstanding play of defender Kathryn Collins. Collins was able to contain and effectively shut down the Marconi strikers to nullify their effect. At the other end of the park, Lisa Collins (no relation) was Marconi's stand out player and continued to work hard in midfield all night. Michelle Carney beat Neisha Klessatel with ease, leaving Klessatel with only the option to commit a foul or allow a shot on goal, she chose the foul handing NSWITC a penalty. Justine McLaughlin put the spot kick directly at Caverretta and the scores remained nil all at half time.

The second half was not all that entertaining and looked headed for extra time, as with the Grand Final between these two sides recently. However, in the 89th minute Cannuli fouled Collins off the ball, which went unnoticed by the referee, from the ensuing run by Cannuli NSWITC failed to clear the ball properly. Marconi then knocked the ball back into the goal area with two or three players in offside positions and Cavanagh kicked in the rebound from keeper Cass Kell to give Marconi their third title this season.

Line-ups:

Marconi: Caverretta, Warrener, Klessatel, Kimber, Cavanagh, Link (Burgess75'), Cannuli (Filhebon 89'), Oldham, Ledbrook (Magkouska 86'), Collins, Peters.

NSWITC: Kell, Northcote, Ghorra (Morison 89'), Collins, McMinimee, J.McLaughlin, Carney, Todd (Frewin 89'), O'Neil (Linton 73'), Shirt, Stavrou.

Award List 2000

Fair Play Award:	
Super League	Bonnyrigg
Division 1	Bathurst '75
Division 2	Hakoah
Referee of the Year:	Nick Asargiotis
Media Prize	Fairfax Community Newspapers
Premiers/Runners-up	
Super League – 1st grade	Blacktown/Bonnyrigg
Super League – U21s	Central Coast/Blacktown
Super League – U18s	Leichhardt/Fairfield
Division 1 – 1st grade	Dulwich Hill/Hajduk Wanderers
Division 1 – U21s	AC United/Fraser Park
Division 1 – U18s	MSC Liverpool/Stanmore Hawks
Division 2 – 1st grade	Greystanes/Hurstville ZSC
Division 2 – U21s	Sydney University/Mt Druitt
Division 2 – U18s	Hurstville ZSC/Mt Druitt
Valsport Golden Boot Award:	
Super League	Mark Hagger, Blacktown
	Colin Luff, Bonnyrigg
Division 1	Spase Najdoski, Rockdale
Division 2	Stuart Neilsen, Greystanes
Goalkeeper of the Year:	
Super League	Fernando Greco, Blacktown
Coach of the Year:	
Super League	Brian Brown
Club Champions:	
Super League	Blacktown
Harry Kewell Award:	
Super Cadet League	Sean Rooney, Blacktown
Mark Bosnich Award:	
Super Youth League	Nathan Hughes, Northern Spirit
Paul Okon Award:	
Super Youth League	Brett Studman, Sydney Olympic
Player of the Year:	
Division 2 – 1st grade	Damon Thompson, Hills United
Division 1 – U18s	Jason Lima, Illawarra
Division 1 – U21s	Sead Kacanic, AC United
	Paul Morris, Hajduk Wanderers
Super League – U18s	Simon Zahra, Parramatta Eagles
Super League – U21s	Ryan Jones, Macarthur
Gold Medal:	
Super League	Jim Nikas, Canterbury Marrickville

The social highlight of the New South Wales Soccer Federation - the annual Gold Medal presentation - held last Saturday in the Star City Ballroom, was a break with tradition.

For a start, the Federation did away with two separate functions for different parts of the competition; clubs were not 'forced' to purchase any tickets; and the function was also a Black Tie affair.

Special guests included the State Minister for Sport and Recreation, John Watkins and his wife Deborah, as well as various soccer VIPs from Soccer Australia and the NSL, NSW's Life Members including the man to whom we owe so much, Mr Charles Valentine; sponsors, Sapphire Technologies and Valsport; and coach of the 'Socceroos', Frank Farina.

600 players, coaches and supporters of the Super League, Division 1 and Division 2 clubs attended the event.

As well as the presentation of the Gold Medal to Jim Nikas (see page 12), the highlight of the evening was the auction of an autographed, framed 'Socceroo' shirt to aid the Joe Watson Benefit Fund. A consortium of interests (see Editorial on page 30) contributed $35,000 to Joe's fund and gave the shirt back for auction on 26 August.

Comic relief was provided by comedian, Brian Doyle. There were great pictorial highlights of the season on two large screens, courtesy of Nick Vasic's photography. The band 'Catch 22' played softly for us during the meal and then let everyone boogie afterwards. And the Star City food and service, quite simply, was exemplary.

As one New South Wales soccer personality said "If anyone complains about this evening, they need their head read!" (Actually, this is the polite version!).

Lucky door prizes of (a) a trip for two to Melbourne, Brisbane or the Gold Coast; (b) a night for two at Star City; and (c) an LG DVD player were won by three fortunate guests but, unfortunately, those on stage forgot to give the envelopes with the details to the winners - and the envelopes were last seen in the Premiers Cup carried by Blacktown's Damien Foxe! Hopefully, we can reunite the winners with their envelopes soon!

Notwithstanding this, it was an enjoyable culmination of the season - and one marked also as the last such function attended in an official capacity by the retiring General Manager of the NSW Soccer Federation, Peter Thorne. Not much was said by President Peter Gray on the night about Thorne's departure - we can only presume the Board has some more plans to bid farewell to the person who has guided the Federation for the past decade or more.

Goalkeeper of the Year, Fernando Greco with Ivan Bensimon of Real

Under 21 Player of the Year, Ryan Jones, with Tom Doumanis

Golden Boys - Colin Luff and Mark Hagger with their golden boots

Sead Kacanic and Paul Morris - Div 1 Under 21 Players of the Year

A view of the ballroom with 'Super Soccer' editor and writers in view!

Spase Najdoski, Division 1 Golden Boot winner

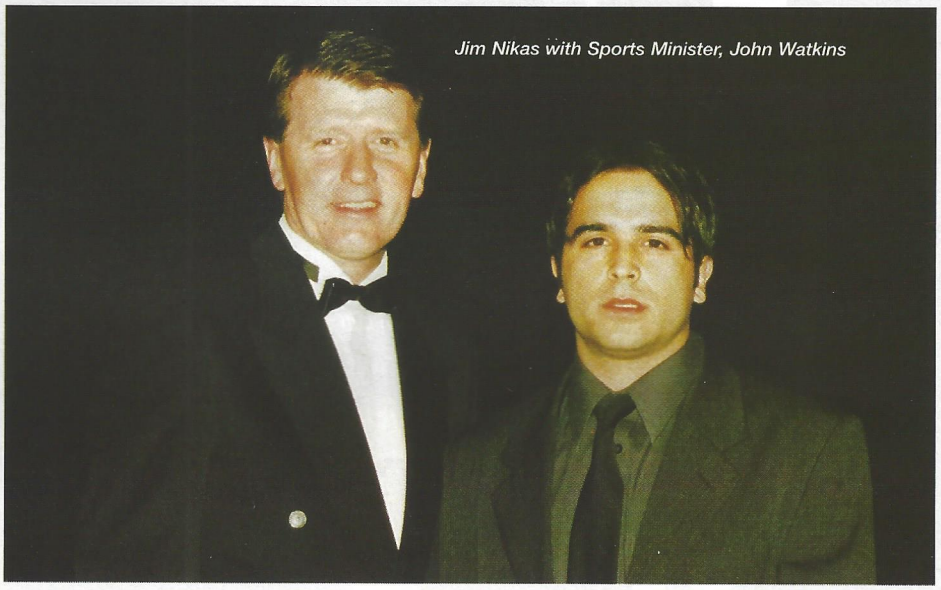
TWO-TIME WINNER FOR TOP PLAYER

At 9 o'clock last Sunday morning, Jim Nikas was out in the cold and wet at Marrickville's Mahoney Oval along with other hopefuls for Canterbury Marrickville's trials for the forthcoming 2000-01 NSW Premier League season.

Few of his team mates knew when they caught up with him that the night before he had been the star attraction at the NSW Soccer Federation's Gold Medal Presentation at Star City, winning the night's most prestigious award - the Super League Gold Medal - with 34 points, two points clear of his nearest rival, Craig Sharpley of Eastern Suburbs.

For Nikas, it's the second time around, having shared the honour two years ago with the diminutive John Buonavoglia who went on to play national league with Newcastle Breakers.

Nikas, 24 of Moorebank, was presented with the Gold Medal by the State Minister for Sport and Recreation, John Watkins.



Jim Nikas with Sports Minister, John Watkins

Nikas had an outstanding 2000 season but he was somewhat surprised when his name came out after the final round votes were decided.

"It's an honour to win this a second time" said Nikas, "but I owe a lot of it to the help of coach Jim Patikas and my team mates at Canterbury. It has been a long hard season but it is fantastic to win such a prestigious award."

On his team mates, he said that captain Matt Percy had been a strength and Michael Raeburn was a consistent player all season.

"To be honest, I hadn't even thought about the Gold Medal. When I was asked a few weeks back, I tipped Johnny Ghisso because he was really impressive in the two games we played against Bonnyrigg."

In the aftermath of accepting the award Nikas paid special tribute to Canterbury coach Jim Patikas for turning around what was looking like a disappointing season early on.

"Before Jim arrived at the club my form was up and down. But when Jim came to the club we sat down and had a chat and he passed on a lot of good information to me as a player. Jim has played first division football in Europe and so when he talks to you, you know it comes from experience. The second half of my year was a lot better than the first half but even still it was a surprise that my name came out in the final draw."

For the 24 year old striker the 2000-01 Premier League season is still somewhat of a mystery. With Canterbury Marrickville resuming training, Nikas is still undecided about his immediate playing future.

"I haven't put pen to paper with Canterbury yet and far as that goes I'm still a little up in the air. I'd like to stay at the club but its a matter of just seeing what's out there and making a decision based on that."

He said that the priority for Canterbury Marrickville in 2000-01 is to make the finals.

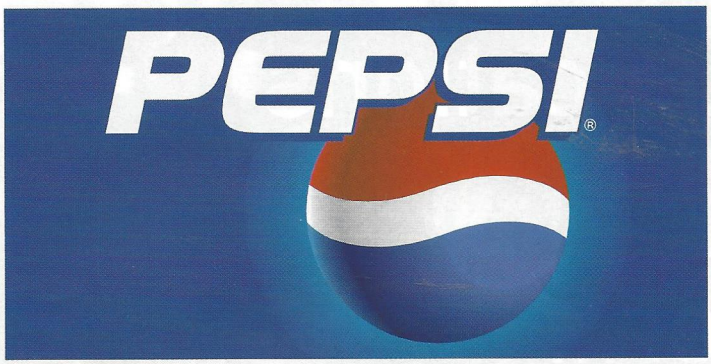
"It's been a while since the club has been there, and we're keen to do better. We've got a great coach [in Jim Patikas] - all we need is a few quality players in key positions to give us some fire power and depth."

Having spent a full season at the Australian Institute of Sport in the mid 1990s and a couple of years with Sydney Olympic, Nikas still feels he has something to offer at a higher level.

"I'd love to have another crack at the NSL but we'll just have to see what happens. I had some trials in Europe last season and had a wonderful time doing that so that could also be a possibility in the future."

The top 14 in the Gold Medal count were:

34 Jim Nikas, Canterbury Marrickville
32 Craig Sharpley, Eastern Suburbs
31 Danny Hinton, Penrith Panthers
30 Steve Karavatakis, Leichhardt
28 Nathan Byrn, Central Coast
27 Jim Aschner, Eastern Suburbs
27 Jim Bakis, St George
27 Matthew Borg, Fairfield
26 Mark Reveley, Parramatta
25 Dean McCreath, Manly Warringah
25 Tom Bazdaric, Parramatta Eagles
24 Gary Meier, Central Coast
24 Elias Augerinos, St George
23 Martin Bourke, Macarthur



Okon, Bozza, Kewell Award winners

The Pepsi Super Youth League and Super Cadet League is arguably the best standard of club football for players aged 11 to 16 in Australia.

This year, the New South Wales Soccer Federation recognised outstanding individuals in these two competitions with the presentation of the following awards:

- Paul Okon Medal for the Pepsi Super Youth League Player of the Year
- Mark Bosnich Medal for the Pepsi Super Youth League Goalkeeper of the Year
- Harry Kewell Medal for the Pepsi Super Cadet League Player of the Year

The winner of each award will receive a trophy as well as assistance from the players with funding for soccer boots or other gear or attendance at training camps. They also receive a personal letter from the Paul, Mark and Harry wishing them all the best with their football.

The zone coaches of the New South Wales Federation selected the award recipients this year and at the Gold Medal Presentation last weekend, the following players were named as the inaugural winners:

- Brett Studman of Sydney Olympic Under 15s as the Paul Okon Medallist
- Nathan Hughes of Northern Spirit Under 14s as the Mark Bosnich Medallist
- Sean Rooney of Blacktown City Under 11s as the Harry Kewell Medallist

Club representatives collected the awards on behalf of Brett, Nathan and Sean.

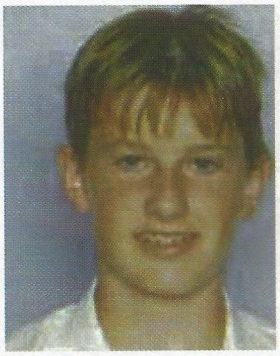
Another innovation is TEAM PEPSI, that is, an XI selected from the Pepsi Super Youth League as the top eleven players. And TEAM PEPSI is (also selected by the Zone Coaches).

- Goalkeeper - Nathan Hughes of Northern Spirit
- Defender - Trent McClenahan of Sydney Olympic
- Defender - Alex Wilkinson of Northern Spirit
- Defender - Brett Studman of Sydney Olympic
- Midfielder - Mauricio Korner of Northern Spirit
- Midfielder - Stefan Delzio of Blacktown City
- Midfielder - Steven Baveas of Blacktown City
- Midfielder - Chris Tadrosse of Northern Spirit
- Striker - Nicholas Stavroulakis of Sydney Olympic
- Striker - Matt Engele of Blacktown City
- Striker - Lee Newton of Leichhardt.

Congratulations to Brett, Nathan and Sean - plus the members of TEAM PEPSI.

We look forward to seeing you on the pitch next season, along with all the other Pepsi Youth and Pepsi Cadet League players in all divisions.

Brett Studman in action for NSW at the national titles in July.



Nathan Huges

Sean Rooney

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SCORING GOALS FOR CLUBS AND SUPPORTERS

The New South Wales Soccer Federation has signed an agreement with EcomTel, an exciting 'new generation' telecommunications carrier, to provide a great new member services deal that will help all of our clubs and their supporters.

EcomTel offers very competitive rates for local, STD and ISD 'phone calls, mobile 'phones and Internet access.

In addition, EcomTel uses e-commerce which allows the telephone consumer to pay their bills directly by Internet (as well as conventional postal methods), view their bills and account history and have a greater level of interaction and management of their telephone or Internet service.

How does this help supporters?

Simple. EcomTel's rates are consistently rated by independent telecommunications price watchdogs as the lowest available, particularly for many overseas destinations and using ordinary Telstra and Optus lines!

Why not pay LESS for your 'phone bill and help your local club at the same time?

Check it out for yourself at www.ecomtel.com.au - but DON'T sign up yet - wait for your club to write to you, so you can help local soccer too!

How does this help clubs?

Clubs have an incentive to encourage their supporters to sign-up with EcomTel for their telephone, mobile and Internet services, because once a supporter is signed-up, clubs will receive a 5% rebate on the total telephone account.

Let's say, for example, that 10 supporters switch to EcomTel, and each has a telephone account of $100, then that's $50 for the club without any effort whatsoever!

So, for clubs, it's a source of income without any sponsorship servicing costs and without any day-to-day management required. PLUS, because EcomTel prides itself on its competitive rates, clubs can be confident that their supporters are benefiting from a cost-effective and efficient service.

So how is this going to work?

By the end of this week, every club associated with the New South Wales Soccer Federation will be provided with guidelines on how to take advantage of this arrangement and with forms to sign-up supporters and members.

Remember ....

Wait till you hear from your club, rather than contacting EcomTel direct - and if you don't hear from your club soon, then get on to them!

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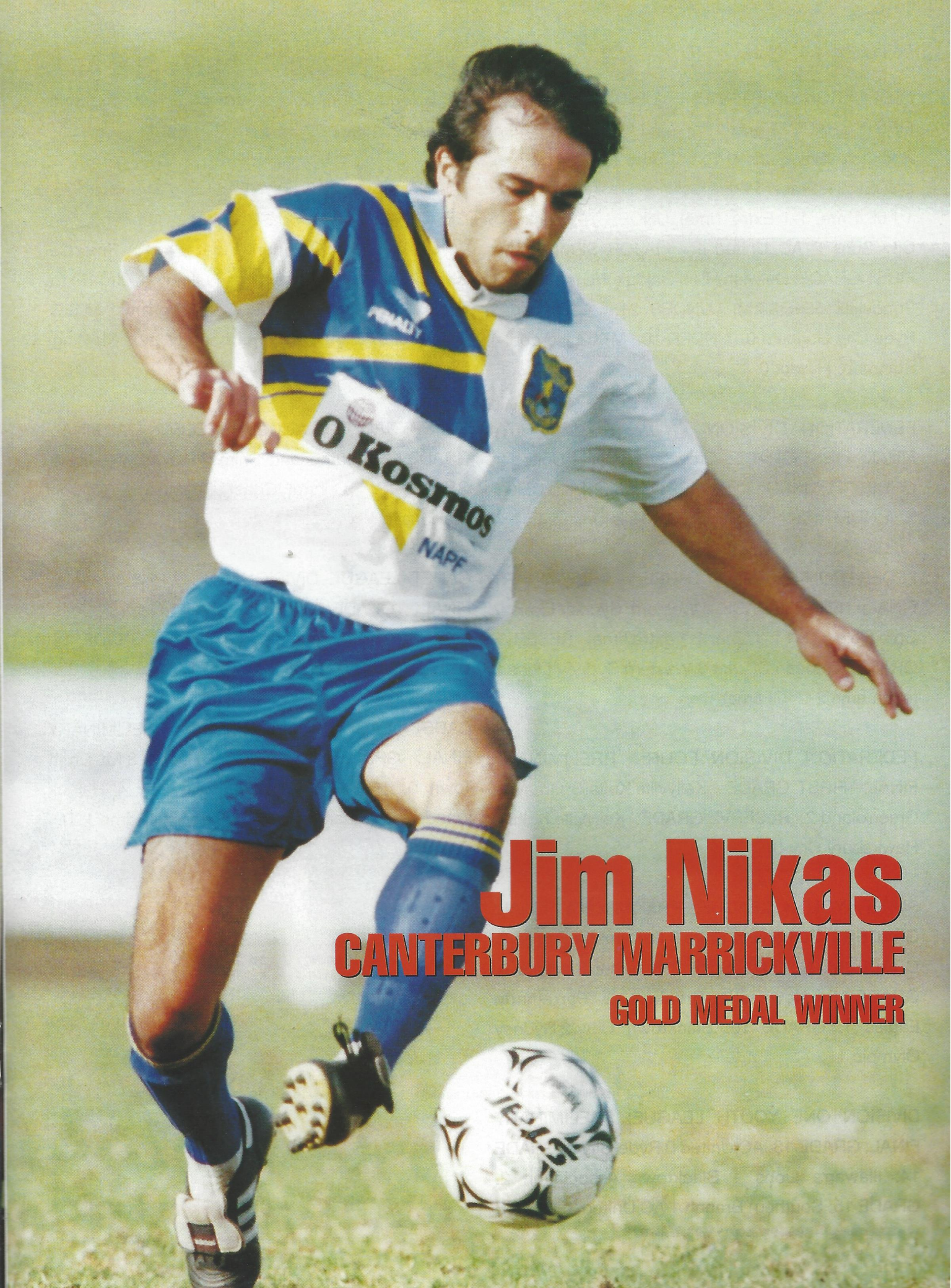

Jim Nikas

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE

GOLD MEDAL WINNER

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: MINOR SEMI FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 1(J Palapanis 108m) Rockdale City Suns 0 Extra Time (0-0 Full Time). UNDER 21: Fraser Park 5 Dulwich Hill 6 Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time). UNDER 18: Rockdale City Suns 2 AC United 1. MAJOR SEMI FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Dulwich Hill 0 Hajduk Wanderers 2 (T Pondeljak 55m 83m). UNDER 21: AC United 3 Ryde City Gunners 0. UNDER 18: MSC Liverpool 4 Stanmore Hawks 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: PRELIMINARY FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Greystanes 1 Hills United 2. UNDER 21: Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2 Hills United 1. UNDER 18: Hurstville ZSC 2 Hills United 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: PRELIMINARY FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 7 Colo Colo 6 (1-1 full time, 1-1 extra time). RESERVE GRADE: Nepean District 3 Western Sydney Lions 2 (extra time 2-2 full time)

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: PRELIMINARY FINAL: FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 3 Granville Greenisland 2. RESERVE GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 1 Hawksbury City 0

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 13: Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 2. GRADE 14: Northern Spirit 2 Marconi Stallions 4. GRADE 15: Newcastle Breakers 2 Parramatta Eagles 1. GRADE 16: Blacktown City 2 Sydney Olympic 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 13: AC United 0 Ryde City 2. GRADE 14: Illawarra Lions 1 Blacktown Association 2. GRADE 15: Southern Branch 1 AC United 3. GRADE 16: Illawarra Lions 2 Southern Branch 1 Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE: GRAND FINAL: GRADE 13: Central Coast Lakers 2 Camden Tigers 0. GRADE 14: Camden Tigers 4 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3 Penalties (1-1 Full Time, 1-1 Extra Time). GRADE 15: Central Coast Lakers 2 M.S.C. Liverpool 0. GRADE 16: Parramatta City 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 11: Sutherland Shire 2 Blacktown City 0. GRADE 12: Central Coast Coasties 4 Marconi Stallions 1.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 11: Ryde City 1 Central Coast Lakers 0 (extra time, 0-0 full time). GRADE 12: Illawarra Lions 0 Parramatta City 1

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 11: Stanmore Hawks 3 Mt Druitt Town 0. GRADE 12: Hurstville City 4 Hajduk Wanderers (penalties, full time 1-1, extra time 1-1).

WHERE ARE THEY?

New South Wales Abroad

continued on page 25

with Binesh Mudaliar

The Statistics

There are currently 104 confirmed Australians contracted to clubs overseas. Of this total number, 49 players hail from New South Wales, either being born here or undergoing a significant portion of their soccer education in this State.

England is the major destination for Blues with 21 of the 49 players contracted there. Four players ply their trade in the Netherlands, while there three each in Croatia, Greece, Singapore, and Germany. The leagues of Belgium, Japan, and Scotland see two New South Welshman each running around, while all by themselves are Nick Rizzo (Italy), Leo Carle (Uruguay), Luke Casserly (Sweden), Joshua Maguire (Romania), Marcelo Pena (Chile), and Clayton Zane (Norway).

Please Note:
The above list does not contain players in minor leagues overseas, for example, competitions below the Conference League in England. Also excluded are players whose whereabouts cannot be confirmed.
Australians playing in the Greek second division cannot be confirmed until the winter transfer window closes.
To be included in the above list, a player must be eligible to play for AUSTRALIA (Under FIFA rules).

AUSSIES ABROAD 2000/2001

PLAYER	POSITION	CLUB	DIVISION (& TIER)	COUNTRY
1. Agostino, Paul	STRIKER	1860 Munich	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
2. Allsopp, Danny	STRIKER	Manchester City	Premier League (1)	England
3. Aloisi, John	STRIKER	Coventry City	Premier League (1)	England
4. Aloisi, Ross	MID	Graz AK	Max.Bundesliga (1)	Austria
5. Babic, Zeljko	STRIKER	Sint-Truiden	Jupiler Liga (1)	Belgium
6. Bacak, Josip	STRIKER	Ethinikos Asteras	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
7. Basic, Kresimir	MID	Hrvatski Dragovoljac	Youth	Croatia
8. Bazzano, Frank	MID	SW Bregenz	Max.Bundesliga (1)	Austria
9. Blatsis, Con	DEF	Derby County	Premier League (1)	England
10. Bosnar, Eddy	DEF	Dinamo Zagreb	1.HNL (1)	Croatia
11. Bosnich, Mark	GK	Manchester United	Premier League (1)	England
12. Bothwell, Brian	MID	Geylang United	S-League (1)	Singapore
13. Bove, Raphael	MID	AS Livorno	Serie C1a (3)	Italy
14. Brinias, Dimitri	GK	Bournemouth	Youth	England
15. Brady, Jon	MID	Rushden & Diamonds	Conference League (Non-league)	England
16. Bresciano, Marco	MID	Empoli	Serie B (2)	Italy
17. Broxton, Darren	MID	Southampton	Youth	England
18. Cansdell-Sherriff, Shane	DEF	Leeds United	Youth	England
19. Carbone, Tony	MID	Marine Castle United	S-League (1)	Singapore
20. Carle, Leo	MID	Nacional	Apertura 2000 (1)	Uruguay
21. Cardozo, Pablo	STRIKER	Athinaikos	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
22. Casserly, Luke	STRIKER	AIK Solna	Allsvenskan (1)	Sweden
23. Corica, Steve	MID	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	J-League (1)	Japan
24. Correia, Kevin	STRIKER	CS Maritimo	Nacional Da 1Divisao (1)	Portugal
25. Covic, Ante	GK	PAOK Salonika	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
26. Coyne, Chris	DEF	Dundee	Premier League (1)	Scotland
27. Culina, Jason	MID	Ajax Amsterdam	KPN Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
28. Damianos, Bill	MID	Skoda Xanthi	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
29. Didulica, Joe	GK	Ajax Amsterdam	KPN Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
30. Di Iorio, Joey	STRIKER	Werder Bremen	Youth	Germany
31. Duric, Alex	STRIKER	Home United	S-League (1)	Singapore
32. Edds, Gareth	DEF	Nottingham Forest	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
33. Emerton, Brett	MID	Feyenoord Rotterdam	Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
34. Ergic, Ivan	MID	Juventus to FC Basel (LOAN)	Nationalliga (1)	Switzerland
35. Ferrante, Michael	DEF	West Ham United	Youth	England
36. Filan, John	GK	Blackburn Rovers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
37. Foster, Craig	MID	Crystal Palace	Nationwide Division One (2)	England (pending work permit)
38. Foxe, Hayden	DEF	West Ham United	Premier League (1)	England (pending work permit)
39. Garcia, Richard	STRIKER	West Ham United to Leyton Orient (LOAN)	Nationwide Division Three (4)	England
40. Gilman, Lee	MID	Norwich City	Youth	England
41. Graham, Mark	DEF	Southampton	Youth	England
42. Grella, Vince	MID	Ternana	Serie B (2)	Italy
43. Grdic, Tony	DEF	Hajduk Split	1.HNL (1)	Croatia
44. Groves, Brad	MID	Leeds United	Youth	England
45. Guyett, Scott	DEF/MID	Southport	Conference League (Non-League)	England
46. Harries, Paul	STRIKER	Carlisle United	Nationwide Division Three (4)	England

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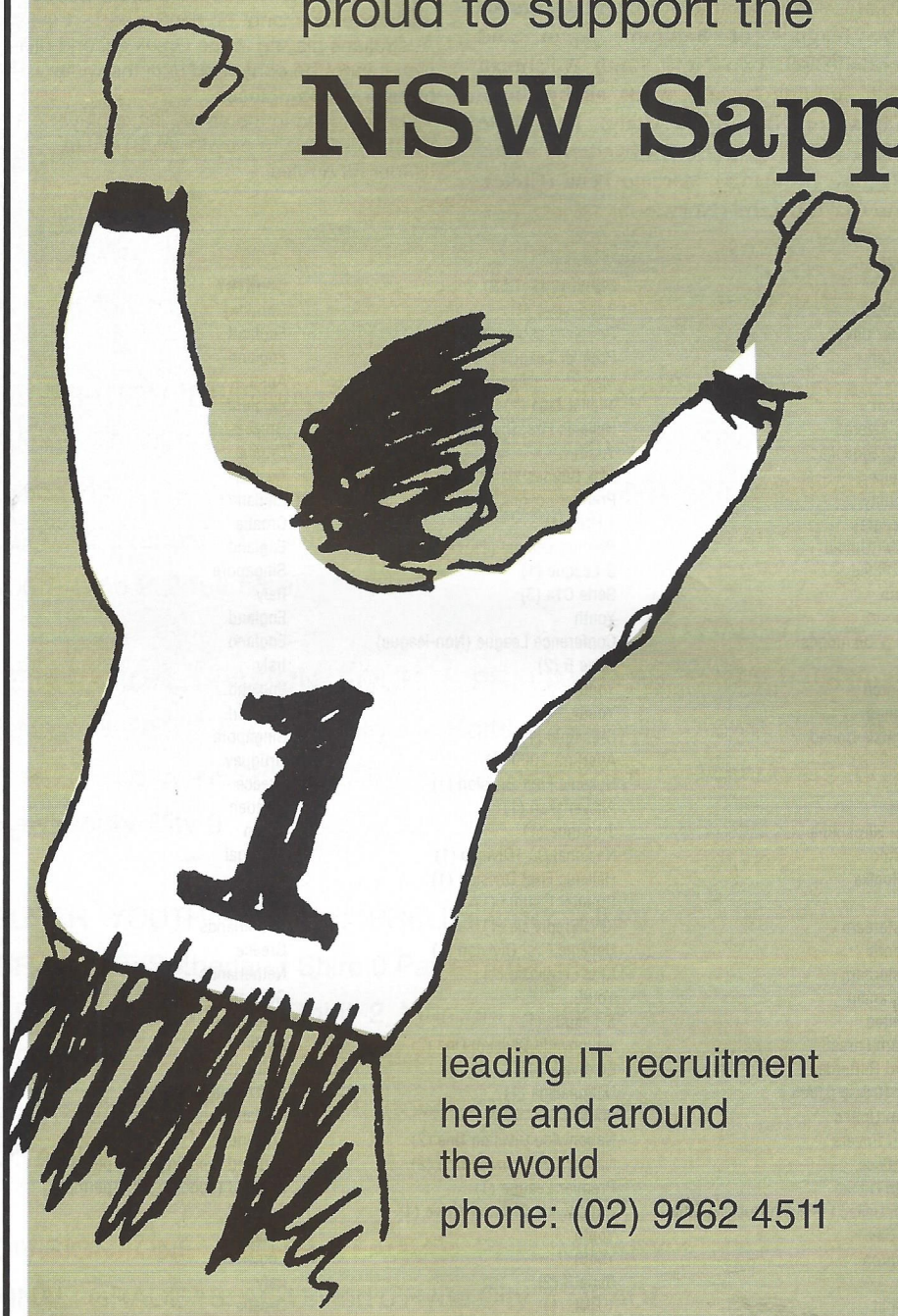

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People who get it

SAPPHIRE TECHNOLOGIES

HO HUM - MAN U AGAIN!

At least according to our resident 'Pom' on the 'Super Soccer' team, Mark Fowler. Here he previews the English Premier League season about to kick-off on Saturday 19 August by looking at each club's chances in the position where he believes they will finish. (The number in brackets after each team's name is where they finished last season.)

Manchester United (1st)

Players signed/sold: 2/6

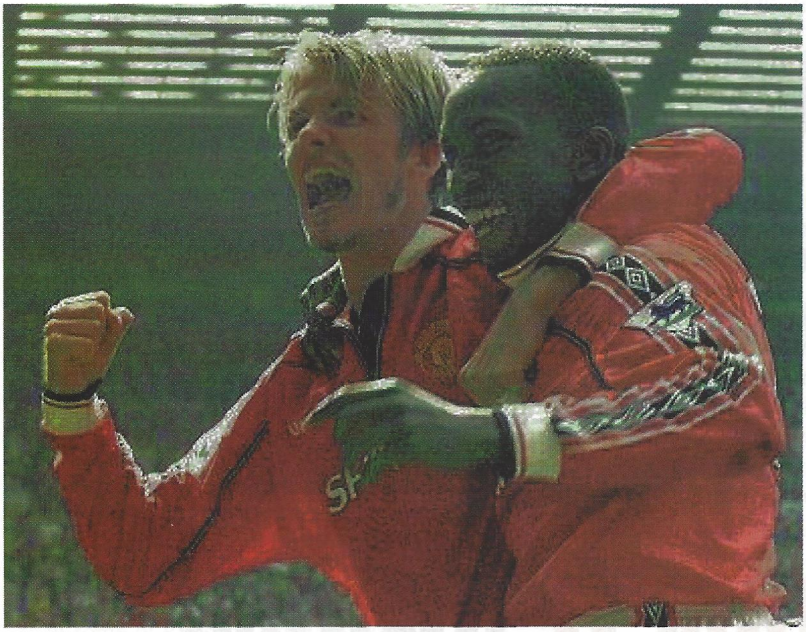
Just who can stop them? The Old Trafford-based team won the Premier League last season by a whopping 18 points, and are once again the team to stop. Alex Ferguson's men are the bench-mark in English football at the moment, and while many point to their expensive purchases much of their success comes from home-grown talent such as Paul Scholes, David Beckham, Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville. Despite losing only three games last season Ferguson has snapped up French World Cup winning goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from Monaco to replace LG Socceroo goal-keeper Mark Bosnich.

Arsenal (2nd)

Players signed/sold: 2/9

Arsenal came second last time around, and despite the loss of Marc Overmars and 'Manu Petit should finish the same this time. Petit will be missed but while Overmars is a huge loss to the Gunners there has long been talk of some of his teammates being less than impressed with his commitment to the cause. That Arsenal have kept Patrick Viera is far more important to the

side, and French international striker Robert Pires should help the likes of Dennis Bergkamp and Kanu score goals.



Manchester United's David Beckham and Dwight Yorke.

Chelsea (5th)

Players signed/sold: 4/5

Chelsea had trouble last season scoring goals, with Gianfranco Zola and Chris Sutton not finding the net with enough regularity. For all his skills Zola scored on the first day of the season and the last, but few in between, while Sutton was surely the worst buy of last season. Ten million pounds for a striker that scored three goals is a shocking return, although that they recouped six million when selling him to Celtic is some consolation. The club have apparently turned down bids of 20 million pounds for bit-part striker Tore-Andre Flo, but new boy Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is a class act, while Mario Stanic is yet another player to add to Chelsea's huge legion of international stars.

Liverpool (4th)

Players signed/sold: 5/5

Liverpool just missed out on qualifying for the European Champions League last season, and new boys Markus Babbel, Nick Barmby and Bernard Diomede will be looking to go a step closer this time. The loss of David Thompson to Coventry means the Reds are struggling for wide players - which should increase their desire to sign Middlesborough's German international Christian Ziege. The signing of Bramby is interesting - the England squad member has not exactly been a model of consistency in his professional career and really needs to shine with better players around him.

Leeds United (3rd)

Players signed/sold: 4/4

Leeds had a great season on the field last year, although expect them to have a slightly rockier ride this time around. With Kewell's injury, the court-case of Jonathan Woodgate and Lee Bowyer and a number of quality reserve players who will start looking for first-team action elsewhere, David O'Leary's squad could be unsettled this year. Mark Viduka will need to

produce the goods at the highest level of his career so far, and the best goalkeeper in England, Nigel Martyn, will be expected to continue to stop the opposition scor-

Bradford City's star signing - Benito Carbone

ing at the other end.

Sunderland (7th)

Players signed/sold: 5/2

Like Leeds Sunderland had a season that was better than they dared to expect, and while boss Peter Reid indeed have a head like a monkeys head (as the popular chant goes) he is a proven winner. The signing of former Everton midfielder Don Hutchison is a huge boost for the club, as the Scotland international should take some of the scoring pressure off striker Kevin Phillips. When you look at big money moves, Phillips' move from Watford a couple of years ago for 300,000 pounds must be one of the bargains of the decade.

Newcastle (11th)

Players signed/sold: 2/6

Newcastle got off to a terrible start last season under Ruud Guillit, but under favourite son Bobby Robson bounced back to a respectable 11th place finish. Should do a lot better this time around given their superb home form, although much will depend on how former Wimbeldon youngster Carl Cort goes. Robson has also managed to get rid of a number of players from his squad - the likes of Alessandro Pisone, Lionel Perez, Stuart Eliot, Silvio Maric and Temuri Ketsbaia all been shown the door marked 'Exit'.

Aston Villa (6th)

Players signed/sold: 7/4

Despite manager John Gregory's frequent outbursts Villa finished sixth last season and got through to the FA Cup Final. However, their pre-season has been rocked with players wanting away from the Midlands club, among them captain Gareth Southgate and defensive partner Ugo Ehiogu. The signing of Frenchman David Ginola will thrill the fans, but does little to help a team whose average age is 29. Alpay Ozalan from Fenerbahce is a class player, while Luc Nilis will be expeced to fill in for another want away star, Julian Joachim.

West Ham (9th)

Players signed/sold: 5/7

West Ham are another club who don't mind signing older players. Arsenal left-back Nigel Winterburn will be competing for the number three jersey with Stuart Pearce, while Davor Sukur is another experienced player to make the move from Highbury to Upton Park in the short off-season. Should finish in the same place as last year, although won't improve much on that spot.

Frederic Kanoute impressed at the end of last season when on loan to the Hammers, and he should lead the line with more consistency than Paulo Wanchope, who looks all set for a move to Manchester City.

Tottenham (10th)

Players signed/sold: 4/6

Likewise Tottenham should match last year's spot, although they will need to get some of their injury-prone stars on the field. Darren Anderton, Les Ferdinand and Stefan Iverson are all class players - but need to be out on the field. The signing of one of Europe's best forwards, Sergei Rebrov, and England's Ben Thatcher, shows that Spurs mean business, but equally as important is the free transfer signing of ex-Wimbeldon goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

Leicester City (8th)

Players signed/sold: 5/2

Leicester finished eighth last season, but it will be a struggle for the club without Martin O'Neill in charge. Most of the players were bought to the club by O'Neill, so the lure of staying with Leicester rather than move on has now gone. Ex-Gillingham boss Peter Taylor is well regarded in football circles but has a huge task to try and keep the likes of Muzzie Izzet and Neil Lennon happy, especially when they could easily play for a more 'glamourous' team. The signing of Ade Akinbiyi from Wolves is a huge gamble.

Socceroo captain, Paul Okon at training in Middlesborough

HO HUM - MAN U AGAIN!

Everton (13th)

Players signed/sold: 7/6

Everton will start the season without the injured Kevin Campbell, but all eyes will be on one man. Paul Gascoigne is a shadow of the player that starred for Newcastle and Tottenham before his ill-fated move to Lazio, but will draw crowds wherever he goes. An aging defence will be offset by young centre-back Richard Dunne who is proving to be a class act.

Southampton (15th)

Players signed/sold: 3/0

Southampton finished the season in style under Glenn Hodlle - and it's a rare event when the Saints aren't forced into selling against their will. This pre-season though they haven't needed too, and only the upcoming court case against boss David Jones, who is on a year's leave from his post, hangs over the club. Its been a quiet pre-season at the Dell though, with no players leaving on permanent transfers and the Saints signing Mark Draper from Aston Villa and striker Uwe Rosler.

Derby (16th)

Players signed/sold: 6/6

Derby finished too close to the bottom last year for comfort, but have one of the shrewdest bosses in Jim Smith and some fine players. To improve on last season all they need to do is improve on a dismal home record at their Pride Park headquarters. Georgiou Kinkladze has made his loan move from Ajax permanent, while only fringe players Mikkel Beck, Tony Dorigo and Esteban Fuertes have left.

Middlesborough (12th)

Players signed/sold: 6/2

Middlesboro' have flattered to deceive for the past few seasons, and Bryan Robson must surely deliver this time around. Chairman Steve Gibson has been remarkably patient with Robson, but even that patience must soon run out. Apart from Paul Gascoigne and reserve goalkeeper Ben Roberts no players of note have left the club, but to an ageing team Robson has added Paul Okon, Christian Karembeu, Mark Crossley, Joseph-Desire Job, Noel Whelan and Alen Boksic. The signing of Boksic looks to be an even bigger gamble than some of Robson's previous buys.

Bradford City (17th)

Players signed/sold: 4/2

Bradford City only survived the Premier League on the last day of the season last time around with a 1-0 win over Liverpool. They have picked up a couple of good signings in the off-season, namely David Hopkin from Leeds and Dan Petrescu from Chelsea, and if they can get a much-needed striker to play alongside former bricklayer Dean Windass could be celebrating survival much earlier this season. Also likely to be future champions of Europe (see below). The loss of manager Paul Jewell to Sheffield Wednesday is not the blow people think either.

Charlton (1st in D1)

Players signed/sold: 4/5

Charlton are widely tipped to go down, which is surprising considering they have been in the Premier League as recently as 1998, 'walked' the Division One title last year, and have spent heavily this time around. Will survive - just. The Addicks haven't lost any players they wanted to keep, and have spent nearly ten million pounds on three players - Claus Jensen, Jonatan Johansson and Radostin Kishishev.

Coventry (14th)

Players signed/sold: 3/5

Coventry have lost two key players in Robbie Keane to Inter Milan, and Gary McAllister to Liverpool. The loss of Keane is a blow, although one would expect him back in the Premier League in less than a season anyway. But the loss of midfield playmaker McAllister will hurt the Sky Blues more than people realise. Without their skipper and a forward who scored goals they

could unfortunately slip into Division One - unless they improve on last season's dismal away record.

Manchester City (2nd in D1)

Players signed/sold: 2/1

Manchester City slipped back into Division One last season with a late win over Gillingham in the Division Two Play-Off final, then last season came second in Division One with virtually the same team. It looked like [illegible]

the job in the Premier League, apart from the signing of Alf-Inge Haaland, until he recently secured the signature of former World Footballer of the Year George Weah.

Ipswich (Won Play Off in D1)

Players signed/sold: 5/2

Ipswich have been on the verge of the Premier League for the past four years, and deservedly made it through the play-offs last season after some heart-breaking misses. All of which makes it a shame that they will be going straight back down.

(Mark Fowler is both a life-long fan and a shareholder in his hometown club of Bradford City).

Three of the 'Super Soccer' team also stick their neck on the ones to watch in the English Permier League this coming season.

Bonnie Mersiades

Paul Okon at Middlesborough. He's very talented; he's endured three years fighting back from injury and other frustrations; and he's very determined to succeed. Plus Danny Tiatto (Manchester City), John Aloisi (Coventry), Mark Schwarzer (Middlesborough), Con Blatsis (Derby County), Hayden Foxe (West Ham), Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell (Leeds) and don't write off our beloved Bozza (Manchester United). They are my players to watch!

Binesh Mudaliar

Foxey at West Ham, because he's a legend. Watch Manchester City because the majority of George Weah's and Paulo Wanchope's goals will be set up by the marauding Danny Tiatto.

Mark Fowler

Matt Clarke at Bradford City. Unusually there is a dearth of quality English goalkeepers at the moment, and this guy is destined for higher honours. My 'bolter' for England's 2002 World Cup squad - you read it here first!

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Mahoney Park, Marrickville
(9.00am-12.00pm)

For Further Details: Laki Konistis (Club Administrator) 0411 191 815

PLAYERS AND MEDIA LIAISON WANTED

Dulwich Hill Soccer Club requires players for their Super League U18 & U21 teams and a Media Liaison Officer for the 2001 season.

All applications & C.V.'s to be posted or faxed
C-/ D. Martins
1-3 Denby St., MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204
FAX (02) 9569 0624 PH: 0412 076 212

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by our advertisement for youth league players and coaches in last week's Super Soccer—Duarte Martins of Dulwich Hill Soccer Club

A.C. UNITED SOCCER CLUB

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2001 SEASON FOR THE FOLLOWING COACHING POSITIONS

State League Division 1 (Super League Pending)
U18's, U21's, and 1st Grade

Trial Dates State League
U18's 12.00PM, U21's 2.00PM, 1st Grade 4.00PM
Sunday, October 15th and 22nd, 2000

Youth League Division 1 - U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's

Trial Dates Youth League
U13's 9.30AM, U14's 11.30AM, U15's 1.30PM, and U16's 3.30pm - Saturday, October 7th, 14th, and 21st, 2000

Cadet League Division 2 - 11's and U12's

Trial Dates Cadet League
U11's 9.00AM, U12's 10.30AM
Sunday, October 15th and 22nd, 2000

Applications to be sent to Mr. John Palmano
PO Box 7044, WETHERILL PARK NSW 2164

Or for further Enquiries contact:
Frank Falcone 0411 381 969 or John Palmano 0412 921 131

Minimum requirements-Intermediate Level Certificate
Applications close September 1, 2000

Over 35's and Over 45's WORLD SOCCER FESTIVAL

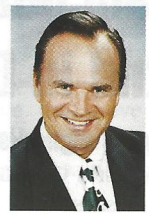
Valentine Sports Park. October 20th -25th
Headquarters for Soccer in NSW

Dear friends in Soccer,

INVITATION

It is with great pleasure that this invitation is extended to teams and individual players to participate in the Air New Zealand Invitational Over 35's and Over 45's Soccer Festival.
We hope you can join us for the fun, friendship and fraternity.
Come play against the NSW Soccer Coaches Team, comprising of some well known coaches, as well as a variety of visiting teams.
Individual or part team entries are welcome as you can join a make up team and enjoy the festival.

Yours in Soccer,
Victor Greenwich - President, NSW Federation of Soccer Coaches



To View the Festival webpage please go to:
www.goldenoldiessoccer.com
or Phone 02 9251 7799 or 0412 850095
or follow the banner link from www.soccernsw.com.au

WHERE ARE THEY?

New South Wales Abroad

from page 19

47. Honeyman, Ben	STRIKER	Brechin	Division Three (4)	Scotland
48. Howells, Lee	MID	Cheltenham Town	Nationwide Division Three (4)	England
49. Invincibile, Danny	MID	Swindon Town	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
50. Johnson, Richard	MID	Watford	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
51. Jones, Brad	GK	Middlesbrough	Youth	England
52. Juric, Frank	GK	Bayer Leverkusen	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
53. Jurilj, Mirko	MID	Sembawang Rangers	S-League (1)	Singapore
54. Kalac, Zeljko	GK	Roda JC Kerkrade	KPN Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
55. Kearton, Jason	GK	Crewe Alexandra	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
56. Kennedy, Joshua	STRIKER	VfL Wolfsburg	Youth	Germany
57. Kewell, Harry	MID/STRIKER	Leeds United	Premier League (1)	England
58. Kindtner, Lorenz	DEF	Roeselare	Tweede Klasse (2)	Belgium
59. Knezevic, Vilson	GK	Germinal Beerschot Antwerp	Jupiler Liga (1)	Belgium
60. Kotevich, Alex	DEF	Kickers Offenbach	Regionalliga Sud (3)	Germany
61. Kulcsar, George	MID	Queens Park Rangers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
62. Laurie, Steve	DEF	West Ham United	Youth	England
63. Laybutt, Steve	DEF	Feyenoord Rotterdam	KPN Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
64. Lazaridis, Stan	MID	Birmingham City	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
65. Lovell, Stuart	MID	Hibernian	Premier League (1)	Scotland
66. Madaschi, Adrian	DEF	Atalanta	Youth	Italy
67. Maguire, Joshua	MID	Steaua Bucharest	Divizia A (1)	Romania
68. McDonald, Scott	STRIKER	Southampton	Youth	England
69. Milicic, Ante	STRIKER	Rijeka	1.HNL (1)	Croatia
70. Milosevic, Danny	GK	Leeds United	Premier League (1)	England
71. Moore, Craig	DEF	Glasgow Rangers	Premier League (1)	Scotland
72. Murphy, Shaun	DEF	Sheffield United	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
73. Muscat, Kevin	DEF	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
74. Neill, Lucas	DEF	Millwall	Nationwide Division Two (3)	England
75. Noto, Nello	MID	Torino Calcio SPA	Serie B (2)	Italy
76. Okon, Paul	DEF/MID	Middlesbrough	Premier League (1)	England
77. Palomino, Rodrigo	STRIKER	Francs Borains	Division IIIB (3)	Belgium
78. Pena, Marcelo	MID	Everton	Primera A (1)	Chile
79. Petterson, Andy	GK	Portsmouth	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
80. Popovic, Tony	DEF	Sanfrecce Hiroshima	J-League (1)	Japan
81. Rizzo, Nick	MID	Ternana	Serie B (2)	England
82. Rosier, Matthew	DEF	Southampton	Youth	England
83. Salapasidis, Kosta	MID/STRIKER	Compostela	Segunda A (2)	Spain
84. SajRynes, Mike	MID	SFC Opava	2 Liga (2)	Czech Republic
85. Schwarzer, Mark	GK	Middlesbrough	Premier League (1)	England
86. Simunic, Josip	DEF	Hertha Berlin	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
87. Skoko, Josip	MID	Racing Genk	Jupiler Liga (1)	Belgium
88. Spiteri, Joe	STRIKER	Lierse	Jupiler Liga (1)	Belgium
89. Stewart, Darren	DEF	Balestier Central	S-League (1)	Singapore
90. Sweeney, Chris	MID/STRIKER	Queen's Park	Division Two (3)	Scotland
91. Tambouris, John	DEF	Kalamata	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
92. Tapai, Ernie	MID/STRIKER	Home United	S-League (1)	Singapore
93. Tiatto, Danny	DEF/MID	Manchester City	Premier League (1)	England
94. Tohouroglou, Kyriakos	GK	PAOK Salonika	Hellenic First Division (1)	Greece
95. Tolios, Nick	DEF	Ethnikos Asteras	Division A (1)	Greece
96. Van Blerk, Jason	DEF	West Bromwich Albion	Nationwide Division One (2)	England
97. Vidmar, Tony	DEF	Glasgow Rangers	Premier League (1)	Scotland
98. Viduka, Mark	STRIKER	Leeds United	Premier League (1)	England
99. Vlahos, Andy	STRIKER	Panathinaikos to South Melbourne (LOAN)	National Soccer League (1)	Australia
100. Widera, Sean	MID/STRIKER	Hibernian	Youth	Scotland
101. Wilkshire, Luke	MID	Middlesbrough	Youth	England
102. Zane, Clayton	STRIKER	Molde	Tippeliga (1)	Norway
103. Zdrilic, David	STRIKER	SpVgg Unterhaching	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
104. Zelic, Ned	DEF/MID	1860 Munich	Bundesliga (1)	Germany
105. Zois, Peter	GK	NAC Breda	KPN Eredivisie (1)	Netherlands
(TOTAL= 105)				

Please Note:

- The above list does not contain players in minor leagues overseas, for example, competitions below the Conference League in England. Also excluded are players whose whereabouts cannot be confirmed.
- Australians playing in the Greek second division cannot be confirmed until the winter transfer window closes.
- To be included in the above list, a player must be eligible to play for AUSTRALIA (Under FIFA rules).

SECOND DIVISION 2000

by Paul Goodwin

HILLS JUST KEEP ON KICKING

Paul Goodwin was at the Rockdale Centre on Sunday to see the Preliminary Final between Greystanes and Hills United.

GREYSTANES 1 (Kidd, 2') - HILLS UNITED 2 (Coombes 39', Field 84')

GREYSTANES: Apps, Kidd, Grass, B Racker, D Crittenden, Harper, Crawhall, Cumming, Birrane, Neilsen, Cassar. Subs Cauchi, Sterrett, Loukadounis

HILLS UNITED: R Oppedisano, Mesiti, Jurcevic, Fraser, Thompson, Field, Coombes, A Oppedisano, Dellas, Miller, Vale. Subs Manefield, McGuire, Kelly

Referee: Ken Sharp

The Second Division Preliminary Final produced another upset this week with Hills United recovering from the shock of conceding a goal inside the first two minutes against premiers Greystanes by putting their stamp on the game for the last hour or so of the contest at the Rockdale Soccer Centre and going on to win 2-1.

Andy Kidd powered home a header from a corner to put Greystanes a goal up, but a very nice finish at the near post in the 39th by skipper Shane Coombes from a smart cross from the byline by David Field had the sides level.

Hills grabbed the winner in the 84th minute when a free kick from out wide on the right by Anthony Oppedisano was headed home by Field to put the side into the Grand Final from fourth spot. It was Field's first goal of the season and as is often the case his coach had been about to substitute him moments before he found the net.

Greystanes were strongest at the start of each half and forced two early corners, one of which provided the opening goal of the game. Hills were twice forced to scramble clear and after Daniel Birrane had headed wide, a corner led to Brad Racker swinging over a perfect cross for Andy Kidd to power his strong header past Ricky Oppedisano in the second minute.

Julian Miller's header at the far post, from an Anthony Oppedisano free kick deep on the right in the 6th minute, was well saved by David Apps, while Todd Harper almost gave his side a 2-0 lead when he clipped a shot just over the angle of post and bar in the 10th. Jason Mesiti made good ground down the left in the 15th and fed Ashley Vale whose cut back of the ball saw Miller drive just over the bar.

Stuart Nielsen and Birrane both went close with shots in the 25th and 33rd respectively for Greystanes before Hills gained an equaliser and ultimately the initiative. Con Dellas combined with Luke McGuire to lay on a pass for David Field whose smart cross from the byline was turned in at the near post by his captain, Coombes.

This 39th minute equaliser took the wind out of Greystanes' sails, but they did begin the second half in meaningful mood. Twice shots were cleared by the Hills defence, the second of these in the 52nd from a strong shot by Steve Skerrett looking goalbound with the keeper beaten until sliced away for a corner.

Hills almost gained the lead in the 65th when Miller's header was well saved by Apps who had earned a yellow card in the 57th when bringing down Vale after the Hills man had looked set to go on and score after a swift break on the right.

The Hills' winner came in the 84th when Oppedisano's cross from a free kick on the right touchline eluded Apps leaving Field with a free header and his first goal of the season to seal the game.

There was a later scare for Hills when no fewer than three Greystanes players bore down on the goal in the dying seconds, but keeper Oppedisano was able to reach the ball first to avert the danger.

The game was the first that Hills have managed to win against Greystanes whose top scorer Neilsen was under a tight rein all day, but for whom there were enough chances to win the game on most afternoons.

Hills as usual was a real team effort, though Second Division player of the year Damon Thompson was rock-like in defence, Shane Coombes was inspirational in the middle and both Miller and Vale showed flashes of their best.

Both Field and McGuire gave huge support on the flanks and the only disappointment for the side will be the loss of Vale in the Grand Final, after the wide player received his second caution of the Finals' series.

Hills now play Hurstville ZSC in the Division 2 Grand Final on Saturday at Melita Stadium.

Mount Druitt defeated Hills United 2-1 in the Under 21 match, while in the Under 18 fixture it was similarly a 2-1 defeat suffered by Hills United, this time at the hands of Hurstville ZSC.

Greystanes' Stuart Neilsen - Golden Boot winner in Division 2 - with Board member, Howard Bradley

SECOND DIVISION Grand Final

Paul Goodwin previews the Division 2 Grand Final.

The stage is set for an almighty contest in the Grand Final this Saturday at Melita Stadium when Hurstville ZSC takes on Hills United.

The classy Hurstville have some wonderful players in their squad and have been playing good football all season, underlying their consistency year after year with a second Grand Final appearance in the last three seasons. Some top players have worn the familiar colours of the club over the last few seasons and the current crop includes many who have played with the club for many years.

Veterans like Ivan Pavelic, Bob Barisic and Robert Harmat combine very effectively with the likes of the skilful Gary Deprato and the elusive Robert Babaic. Tony Mihaljevic has been the scourge of many a defence over the years with various clubs and would have made more of an impact but for a string of injuries which have kept him out of the game as often as not. On his full fitness and form he is almost unstoppable. Aldo Marticich has proven a most useful newcomer fot coach John Gagro and his men, stepping into the side once the season was already underway and weighing in with some good goals to propel his side to the second spot on the ladder.

Ante Majetic has been a tower of strength at the back this season as last and there are few teams as well organised as this one, due to his efforts. We should not forget the influence of Stipe Milicevic who is again proving a difficult player to counter, while both Darko Zoric and Steve Zoric are enjoying some of their best form at the club.

Hills, by contrast, have got where they are on heart and team spirit and have only one of the side that competed two years ago in this division and struggled to hold a place in the middle of the table. Last season Hills were team building and this season it has all come to fruition with wins in all but one match in the last couple of months.

Ricky Oppedisano the team's keeper has been playing out of his skin for weeks and has been playing with a leg strapped heavily in the last outing by the team. His prowess in his area has kept Hills' opponents at bay many times and Hurstville will need to do well to beat him on Saturday. The skipper Shane Coombes is another who has missed some matches due to injury, but is a key player in every game with his work rate and mobility a huge asset.

Another who has taken a few knocks lately is Jason Mesiti who had to come off last weekend with the recurrence of a hamstring strain. His valuable goals in the closing stages of the season make him a must to start the game and his coach is sure to include him in the starting line up if he can get past the physio during the week.

Donald Stout failed a fitness test before the Greystanes game, but comes into calculations again for the Grand Final. Hard triers like Luke McGuire and David Field are huge inspirational members of the side and are going to play a big part again against Hurstville.

Second Division Player of the Year, Damon Thompson, continues to stamp his authority on the game from the centre of defence, while Robbie Jurcevic is the first name on the team sheet each week and will, no doubt, make his usual excellent contribution. Sadly for him Ashley Vale will miss the game due to suspension while Con Dellas has flown out of the country to attend a wedding in Greece, so will be absent as well.

Coach Fred Mesiti is also keen to include Steve Giacomelli after the player, who broke a toe or two in a recent match, declared that he was ready to play.

The Grand Final will see the industrious, never-say-die Hills attempting to thwart the silky passing game provided by Hurstville ZSC.

Having seen Hills beat all comers in their last few games it is hard to write them off this time either. If Hurstville can score a couple of early goals then they may be able to hold on, but Hills are resilient and are slightly favoured to blot out the Hurstville threat and take the major prize.

TIP: Hills United

The Under 21s game features Sydney University and Mount Druitt, while the Under 18s match brings together Hurstville ZSC and Mount Druitt.

HURSTVILLE ZSC
1. Tom Miletic
2. Ante Majetic
3. Robert Harmat
4. Robert Babaic
5. Mario Mrkic (C)
6. Anthony Buntic
7. Ivan Pavelic
8. Stipe Milicevic
9. Aldo Martincich
10. Darko Zoric
11. Tony Mihaljevic
RGK Steve Vuljanic
12. Tom Prusac
13. Bob Barisic
14. Gary Deprato
15. Steve Zoric

Coach: John Gagro
Colours: Red Shirts, White Shorts, Blue Socks

HILLS UNITED
1. Ricky Oppedisano
2. Jason Mesiti
3. Robert Jurcevic
4. Stephen Giacomelli
5. Damon Thompson
6. David Field
7. Shane Coombes (C)
8. Anthony Oppedisano
9. Donald Stout
10. Julian Miller
11.
RGK Kris Griffiths-Jones
12. Luke McGuire
13. Andrew Kelly
14. Daniel Fraser
15. Nick Manefield
16. Ashley Vale

Coach: Fred Mesiti
Colours: WhIte Shirts, Green Shorts, Green Socks

SECOND DIVISION 2000

PEPSI PEPSI

PEPSI Super Cadet League

Mark Fowler was at the 11s and 12s Preliminary Finals last Sunday at Valentine Sports Park.

SHARKS BITE DEMONS!

Sutherland Sharks 2 (Ross 2) - Blacktown City Demons 0

Sutherland Sharks: 1 Sean Notley, 15 Liam Brennan, 3 Tom Wilson, 4 Adam Faour, 5 Brenton Rhodes, 6 Thomas McGrath, 7 Nathan Elasi, 8 Anthony Romeo, 9 Cameron Ross, 10 Christopher Lekkas, 16 Mitchell Lawrence SUB: 17 Robbie Ayoubi

Shots: 9
Corners: 1
Free kicks:1

Blacktown City Demons: 1 Nicolas Grove, 2 Ricky Dobrin, 3 Matthew Cribb, 4 Aaron Gurisik, 5 Emmanuel Giannaros, 6 Luke Maddalena, 7 Mitchell Hook, 8 Daniel Ott, 9 Shane Morrisey, 10 Sean Rooney, 11 Faizel Ridder SUBS: 12 Daniel Weatheroon, 13 Glen Trifiro, 14 Jake Caravana, 15 Thomas Xuereb

Shots: 5
Corners: 1
Free kicks: 2

The Sutherland Shark G11 team secured a hard-fought 2-0 win over the Blacktown City Demons to clinch a Grand Final spot against Sydney Olympic. The Sharks, who finished the regular season in second spot, take on Minor Premiers Olympic this Sunday (20th August) to decide who takes out the Grand Final.

Their win over the Demons was by no means a classic, but then Preliminary Finals rarely are. Both teams struggled to keep possession, and in the end the only difference between the sides was two goals by striker Cameron Ross.

The Sharks had nearly got off to a perfect start in the game when an effort was blocked in the first minute.The ball lopped up for a Sharks attacker to head the ball home, but the assistant referee had already flagged for offside.

The Sharks first goal was a disaster for Blacktown goalkeeper Nicholas Grove, who pushed Ross' speculative 25 metre effort shot over the line when he looked to have it covered all the way.

That goal came nine minutes into the second period, and with just two minutes remaining Ross got his second in fine style. A fine low cross was met by the striker, which Grove did well to stop, but the ball bounced back out and the Sharks number 9 had the easy task of putting the ball into the back of the net.

At a goal down the Demons had to start pushing forward, but they were still unable to create any real chances of their own. It looked like the Sharks were going to hang on until the end, and Ross' second effort merely made the game safe.

A minute after going 2-0 up it was nearly 3-0, Grove saving well after Mitchell Lawrence had cut in from the left-hand side and shot well. But the final whistle blew seconds later anyway, meaning it's the Sharks who go on to a deserved Grand Final appearance.

ANOTHER GRAND FINAL FOR THE COASTIES!

Central Coast 4 (Imberger 2 (incl. 1 pen) Redfern, McLoughlin) - Marconi Stallions 1 (Medulla)

Central Coast: 1 L McParland, 2 A Myles, 3 A McLoughlin, 12 N Smith, 16 A Edwards, 6 S Raftl, 7 B Arnall, 8 J James, 9 S Imberger, 10 B Vanderwoude, 11 J Redfern SUBS: 4 V O'Riordan, 13 M Vuko, 14 N Young, 20 N Crowsen, 5 L McWade

Shots: 13
Corners: 3
Free kicks: 11
Caution: Myles.

Marconi Stallions: 1 D Bertovic, 2 L D'Elia, 3 D Martinez, 4 P Medulla, 5 W Oostendorp, 12 A Tran, 13 S Warda, 8 D Romeo, 14 A Walker, 10 T Buvukkopru, 11 D Bruzzese SUBS: 6 T Roberts, 7 G Gulabovski, GK D Tonkin, 15 T McGowan, 16 D Sculley

Shots: 8
Corners: 5
Free kicks: 10

Central Coast deservedly booked a Grand Final spot with a comfortable win over the Marconi Stallions. A 4-1 scoreline reflected the Coasties superiority over their opponents, and sees them move on to play the Blacktown City Demons in Sunday's Grand Final (20th August).

The Coasties nearly got off to a dream start in the first minute, when Smith flicked a corner by McLoughlin on, but the ball flew just wide. With a 3-1 defeat during the regular season to the Coasties in mind Marconi started to enjoy more of the ball, but their opponents took the lead after just eight minutes. Another corner wasn't cleared properly, and when the ball was put back into the penalty area Redfern hammered home with his left foot to give the Central Coast the lead.

From then on it was all the Coasties, and on 22 minutes it was 2-0. Imberger got on the end of a good move to finish well in the bottom left-hand corner of the goal. The Coasties nearly made it 3-0 right on the stroke of half time - a Myles free kick was sent goalwards but the referee blew for time. The ball sailed straight into the net.

A minute after the re-start it was 3-0 however. Myles made a great run across the field and then up the right flank and his cross was met by Redfern. His effort was blocked, but the ball fell to McLoughlin who finished nicely.

Myles was the best player on the park with his surging runs from midfield, although he occasionally tried to do too much and was also the only player cautioned by the referee. 15 minutes later O'Riordan did superbly on the left-hand flank, and when he cut in he was blatantly tripped in the penalty area, and Imberger fired home the resultant penalty.

Although outclassed Marconi never gave up, and they got a consolation with five minutes to go through Medulla, who finished well.

PEPSI PEPSI

PEPSI SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE - PRELIMINARY FINALS

BRING THE RAYBANS!

Binesh Mudaliar had fun in the sun at Valentine Park on Saturday.

Under 14

Stallions overcome Spirit

Northern Spirit 2 (Fuggle 7', Rubbino 32') - Marconi 4 (Minic 15', Mourinho 23' & 51', De Marco 30')

Northern Spirit: N Hughes, A Goldrick, E Noel, J Swarts, E Paartalu, L Fuggle, D Volpato, M Korner, B Darwich, B Rintala, C Rubbino Subs: D McBrien, N Mcinerney, R Lopez, E Ala, C Myle

Shots: 8
Corners: -
Fouls: 11
Cautions: -

Marconi Stallions: C Papadakis, S McKenzie, B Baker, V Carioti, I Onyewuenyi, P Bevilacqua, R Stivala, M Minic, N Mourinho, A De Marco, J Duffell Subs: A Pizzolato, S Soleski, M Burns, J Chronopoulos

Shots: 10
Corners: 5
Fouls: 10
Cautions: Onyewuenyi, Bevilacqua

Super Soccer Rating: 5

"The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades" is a tune that could have been played over the PA system at Valentine Sports Park following a brilliant game of soccer between two highly talented teams in Northern Spirit and Marconi. Spirit has high-octane performers in this year's Mark Bosnich Medallist Nathan Hughes, Team Pepsi midfielder Mauricio Korner, and gifted forwards Carlo Rubbino and Liam Fuggle. By contrast, Marconi's strength lies in its understanding and teamwork between eleven talented players.

Northern Spirit hit the lead in the 7th minute courtesy of some outstanding work by dribbling sensation Liam Fuggle. Fuggle wreaked havoc by charging down right flank, cutting back into the box, and burying a left-foot shot past Marconi goalkeeper Con Papadakis.

While Fuggle was stretching the Stallions on the right, Mauricio Korner was policing the middle for Spirit. It's amazing to think this player is only Under 14. His ball control and playing demeanour strikes of one much older. Watch for this player in the future.

Marconi soon snapped onlookers out of their Mauricio-gazing with three goals in fifteen minutes. Marko Minic equalised in the 15th minute with a short stab following good work on the left byline by Joe Duffell. Marconi captain Nicholas Mourinho scored one of the goals of the season in the 23rd minute with what can only be described as a sliding, mid-air, left-foot intercept from a pin-point Marko Minic cross from the right-wing. Andrew De Marco increased Marconi's lead to 3-1 in the 30th minute after heading in a free-cross following a rare misjudgment from Nathan Hughes.

Hitman Carlo Rubbino did his best to extend Spirit's season by scoring two minutes into the second-half with a left-foot shoot from close-range beating Papadakis. With the score standing at Marconi 3-2 Northern Spirit, the momentum was with the latter as the likes of Korner, Fuggle, and Rubbino became magnets for the ball.

But Mourinho scored another unbelievable goal to seal the match and send his side to the Grand Final. Marconi's Number 9 blazed towards goal from the halfway line and sneaked a shot past Hughes to make the final score 4-2.

Next week, it's Blacktown City and Marconi in the championship decider. Come along to see the best standard under-14 football in Australia!

PS Bring your shades.

EAGLES SOAR OVER SHARKS

Under 13
Sutherland Sharks v Parramatta Eagles

Sutherland 0 - Parramatta 2 (Mileski 10', Browne 60+')

Sutherland: T Jones, D Novy, G Holland, K Da Vanzo, E Barsby, A Gugucevski, M Boulton, G Kalogeropoulos, J Vasquez, C Koenig, M Smith Subs: C Camilleri, D Lockhart, D Wilson, T Sancar

Shots: 3
Corners: 2
Fouls: 12
Cautions: Smith, Da Vanzo

Parramatta: H Kurdi, T Elrich, A Broz, E Boukarim, M Cromar, A Napoli, M Yarnold, R Mileski, J Browne, C Jacob, G McDonald Subs: M Malouf, G Beha, D Mourad, N Paya

Shots: 7
Corners: 1
Fouls: 15
Cautions: Mileski

Super Soccer Rating: 4

This was a contest between a never-say-die Sutherland outfit with a trump card in striker Joel Vasquez and their significantly taller opponents, Parramatta Eagles. Despite the Eagles advantage, both sides had their fair share of early possession but posed no real threat to either Tim Jones or Hassan Kurdi.

In the 10th minute, Eagles forward Robert Mileski gave Jones something definite to worry about when he slalomed his way through the Sutherland defence from thirty metres out and steered a shot to the right of Jones.

Following Mileski's goal, Parramatta settled to become the more dominant team on the park. In particular, Number 9 Jacob Browne was playing a Mark Viduka-role in attack, holding up the ball and posing a constant threat to Sutherland. However, the Sharks almost equalised as half-time approached, when Chris Koening's wickedly deflected shot from twenty metres out was not held by Eagles goalkeeper Hassan Kurdi but luckily for Parramatta, the rebound fell safe, and Parramatta went to the break holding a precious 1-0 lead.

The Sharks started the second-half with teeth bared and had their travelling fans optimistic of an equalising goal. However, continual breakdowns in the final phase of attack saw no shots on goal with lethal intention. On the other hand, Parramatta counter-attacked and Tarek Elrich almost sealed their Grand Final berth when his left-footer in the 51st minute was thumped just over the Jones' bar.

As the clock wound down, it seemed that Sutherland would score any minute, with all players except the goalkeeper in Parramatta's half. With two minutes remaining, Matthew Smith's low drive from inside the box was blocked on the line by the Eagles and just a moment later Joel Vasquez's scorcher from the left-hand edge of the penalty area was firmly held by Kurdi.

Parramatta broke Sutherland hearts in injury time after Jacob Browne cheekily looped Jones from eight metres out following some excellent work by flanker Daniel McDonald. The Parramatta Eagles setup a showdown with Blacktown City in the Grand Final on August 19.

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Editorial

One of the pleasing features of last weekend's Gold Medal Presentation at Star City was the demonstration of the community of soccer by those involved in Australian soccer, as evidenced by the pledge of $35,000 towards the Joe Watson Benefit Fund.

I'm sure we've all come across people who work in, or who are involved with, Australian soccer whose primary role - if not pleasure - in life seems to be to criticise and complain principally because of issues based on personality and style, rather than performance and substance.

However, last Saturday night, such differences were - momentarily at least - put aside when a consortium comprising the New South Wales Soccer Federation ($10,000), the fourteen Super League clubs ($1,000 each), the CFMEU ($5,000), Soccer Australia via Commissioners Greg Woods and Tony Labbozzetta ($5,000) and insurance brokers Lowe Lippman Bott ($1,000) raised the magnificent sum at the Auction for the framed, autographed 'Socceroos' shirt at the presentation dinner.

The $35,000 will go direct to the Joe Watson Benefit Fund to aid Joe and his family in meeting medical and other costs associated with treatment for his recently diagnosed condition of cancer of the liver.

The good work of the fund-raising committee, led by Alex Robertson, will culminate on Saturday 26 August at Marconi Stadium with a fun-filled day of four games starting at 12 noon, followed by a Dinner Auction at 6.30pm. The games include:

12 noon	Australia Over 35s v Scotland Over 35s
1.30pm	Super League Team of the Year v Joe Watson Select XI
3.00pm	Sydney United v Sydney Olympic
4.30pm	Marconi v Northern Spirit.

Entrance is just $10 for adults and $5 for children. The dinner is $100 per person, and tickets can be obtained by contacting Alex Robertson (9642 6966) or Tony Pezzano (0414 555 971). If you would like to make a donation to the Joe Watson Benefit Fund - however small - you may send your cheque or postal order to "Joe Watson Benefit Fund", care of NSWSF, PO Box 6146, Baulkham Hills BC 2153.

Another good cause worthy of the soccer community's support is the beneficiary of a Soccer Festival Day on Sunday 8 October in the form of the 2000 David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup, in aid of the Homicide Victims Support Group.

The Carty Forsyth Memorial Cup will be held at Melita Stadium, Everley Road, South Granville, from 10.00am to 6.00pm.

NSL teams Marconi, Sydney United, Northern Spirit, Sydney Olympic, Wollongong Wolves and Parramatta Power and Super League teams Blacktown, Bonnyrigg and Parramatta Eagles will participate in a round robin carnival to be held throughout the day, with semi finals and a grand final.

In addition, there will be police bands, stalls, and giveaways for the kids with free coaching clinics held at 9.00am, 11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

You can register for the coaching clinics by e-mailing Inspector Doug McKenzie at mcke1dou@police.nsw.gov.au. This might seem a long way off now, but it's no time at all when you consider the Olympics are almost upon us!

Let's support these two important events and continue to demonstrate the positive power of the soccer community - and forget the pettiness and internecine differences (always!).

Enjoy your football!

Bonnie Mersiades

What's on ... At a glance

Upcoming NSWSF Fixtures:

DIVISION ONE
Preliminary Final, 20/8/00, Lambert Park
1st-Grade: Dulwich Hill v Fraser Park, 3.00PM
U-21: Ryde City Gunners v Dulwich Hill, 12.30PM
U-18: Stanmore Hawks v Rockdale City Suns, 10.30AM

DIVISION TWO
Grand Final, 19/8/00, Melita Stadium
1st-Grade: Hurstville ZSC v Hills United, 3PM
U-21: Sydney University v Mt. Druitt Town, 12.30PM
U-18: Mt. Druitt Town v Hurstville ZSC, 10.30AM

DIVISION THREE
Grand Final, 20/8/00, Serbian Centre
1st-Grade: Prairiewood United v Western Sydney Lions, 3.00PM
Reserves: Balmain v Nepean District, 12.30PM

DIVISION FOUR
Grand Final, 20/8/00, Chopin Park
1st-Grade: United Eagles v Kellyville Kolts, 2.30PM
Reserves: United Eagles v Kellyville Kolts, 12.00PM

PEPSI SUPER YOUTH & SUPER CADET LEAGUE
Grand Final, 19/8/00, Gabbie Stadium
U-11: Sydney Olympic v Sutherland Sharks, 8.45AM
U-12: Blacktown City Demons v Central Coast Coasties, 10.15AM
U-13: Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles, 11.45AM
U-14: Blacktown City Demons v Marconi Stallions, 1.15PM
U-15: Sydney Olympic v Newcastle Breakers, 2.45PM
U-16: Marconi Stallions v Blacktown City Demons, 4.15PM

PEPSI DIVISION ONE YOUTH & CADET LEAGUE
Grand Final, 20/8/00, Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium
U-11: Illawarra Lions v Ryde City Gunners, 8.45AM
U-12: CSI Schofields v Parramatta City, 10.15AM
U-13: Southern Branch v Ryde City, 11.45AM
U-14: Hajduk Wanderers v Blacktown Association, 1.15PM
U-15: Ryde City Gunners v AC United, 2.45PM
U-16: AC United v Illawarra Lions, 4.15PM

PEPSI CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO
Grand Final, 20/8/00, Serbian Centre
U-11: Mt. Pritchard v Stanmore Hawks, 9.00AM
U-12: AC United v Hajduk Wanderers, 10.30AM

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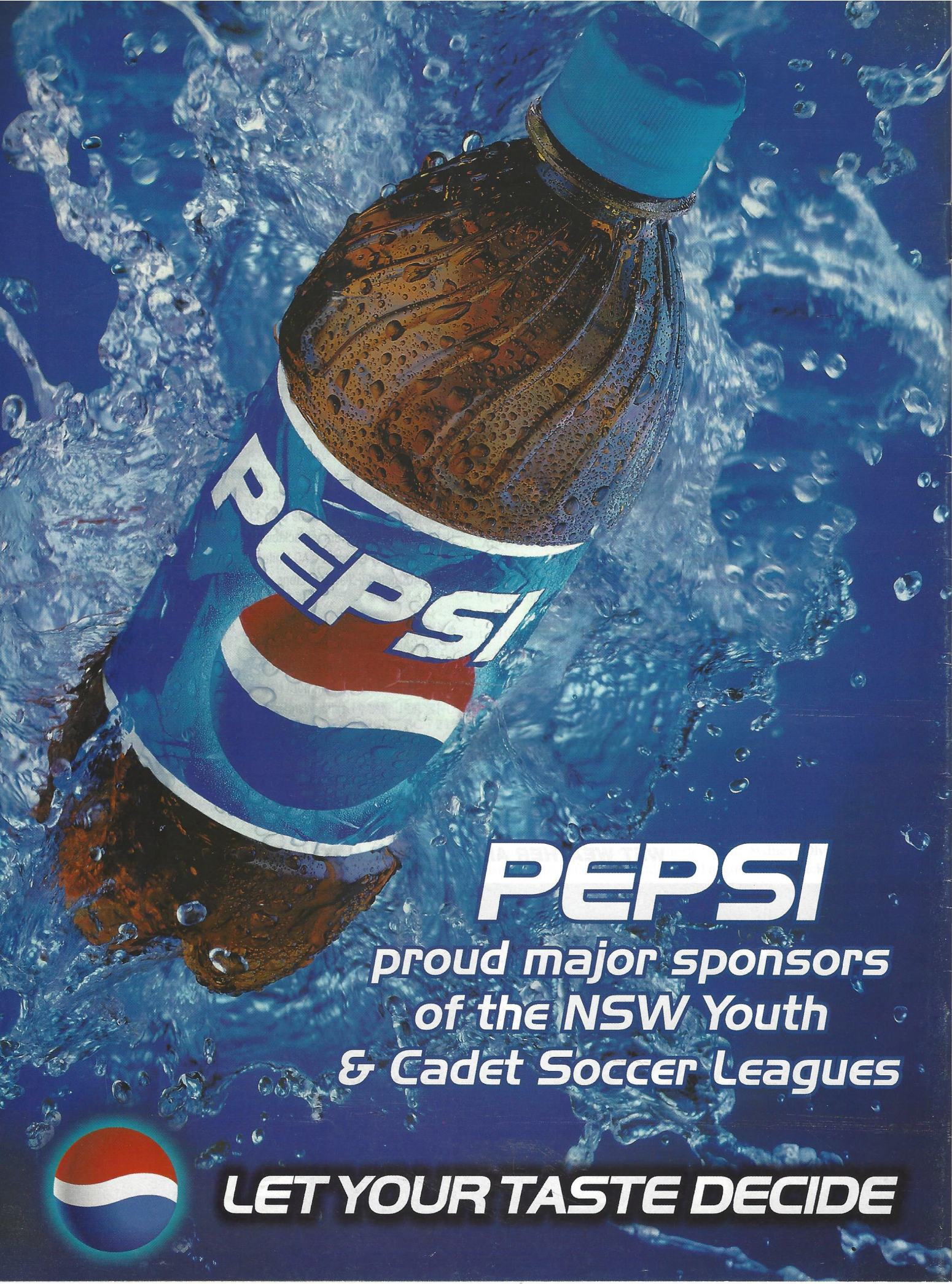
Damien Foxe receives the premiership trophy from Ross Kelly

Division 1, U18 Player of the Year, Jason Lima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